THE NEW
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1ST QUARTER GOLD IMPORTS JUST 6% OF LAST YEAR'S Q1

India imported gold worth $688 million (₹5,160 crore) in Q1 against $11.5 billion (₹86,250 cr) in the same period last year

SILVER IMPORTS, TOO, DROP SIGNIFICANTLY

Silver imports during the April-June 2020 quarter, too, fell 45% on a year-on-year basis to $575 million. The decline in gold and silver imports has helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit to $9.12 billion during the April-June 2020 quarter against $45.96 billion a year ago. Gold imports are important as they have a bearing on the current account deficit

CURRENT ACCOUNT TURNS SURPLUS

- Thanks to narrowing trade deficit, India recorded a current account surplus of $0.6 bn or 0.1% of GDP for the January-March quarter against a deficit of $4.6 bn or 0.7% of GDP in a year ago
- Gold imports have been recording -ve growth since December last year but demand fell drastically in the wake of Covid-19

72%

DECLINE IN GEMS AND JEWELLERY EXPORTS IN APRIL-JUNE 2020

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

₹15.5L cr loss to retail industry so far, says CAIT

No improvement even after 45 days of Unlock 1.0; Seeks relief package from govt

SESA SEN @New Delhi

BACK-to-back lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic have forced many retail businesses to down shutters and nearly 1.5 crore traders are on the verge of doing so in the absence of any support from the government, said the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

"Covid-19 has caused a huge dent in retail trade with losses crossing ₹15.5 lakh crore in the past 100 days. Even after 45 days from Unlock-1, there has been no clear-cut improvement," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general of CAIT, which represents around seven crore traders and 40,000 trade associations.

CAIT urged the government to award a package to traders to ensure their survival. The traders' body demanded relaxation in payment of taxes, extension in repayment of bank loans without additional interest or penalty, and measures that will provide money directly in the hands of the traders.

In April, the losses stood at about ₹5 lakh crore and ₹4 lakh crore each in May and June. The losses stood at about ₹2.5 lakh crore in the first fortnight of July, offering a grim snapshot of the effect of the pandemic on consumer spending.

"Even as the lockdown was relaxed, store footfall was only 10%. Most traders do not have deep pockets. Plus, they have several financial obligations to meet," Khandelwal said.

Retailers have also pointed out that their working capital has completely dried up leaving them even more vulnerable. Payment for goods supplied between December and March to customers on credit has been delayed due to lockdown restrictions. They are hopeful the payments will start trickling in from September.

"The rule of economics describes such a situation, when input is low and the output is high, as unhealthy business eating capital. A helping hand from the government is much needed," CAIT said.

10%

The retail sector's contribution to India's gross domestic product

NEGATIVE OUTLOOK

Recently, credit rating agency CARE Ratings gave India's retail sector a 'negative' outlook saying the impact on demand due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is expected to remain muted at least for the next three to four quarters

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

91 FATALITIES ON SUNDAY

Teams of senior officials have been deputed to monitor if private medical institutions are reserving beds for Covid patients

4,120 Positive cases reported across the state on Sunday

2,156 +ve Cases reported in Bengaluru, again the highest in the state

REPORTS: P4

Absolute majority in Raj assembly: Cong

New Delhi: The Congress has absolute majority in the Rajasthan Assembly, the party asserted on Sunday, "BJP leaders now are not demanding President's rule", Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

Gehlot weighing options, may seek trust vote

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

WITH the Rajasthan High Court bench slated to resume hearing on a petition filed rebel Congress lawmakers against a batch of disqualification notices slapped on them by Speaker C P Joshi, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is learnt to be weighing options to call a short Assembly session if the court rules against the notices.

According to party sources, Gehlot is looking at all options on the table, including legal, in the event of an adverse verdict. "The Rajasthan government will call an Assembly session and the Congress will issue whip to all MLAs to attend. If Sachin Pilot and his group of MLAs defy, they will be disqualified. Even if they attend but vote against or abstain when Gehlot seeks a confidence vote, they will get disqualified," said sources.

The assumption is Gehlot will sail through during the floor test even without the votes of rebels. After having stated last week that he has the support of 102 lawmakers, including allies and Independents but excluding rebels, the crafty chief minister roped in the two-member Bharatiya Tribal Party on Sunday, increasing his comfort level. The simple majority mark in the 200-member House is 101. The whip is meant to stamp out rebellion one way or the other.

The court had on Friday deferred hearing till Monday and directed the Speaker not to take any action in the matter till Tuesday. The Speaker's notice was based on a disqualification petition sent to him by the party's Chief Whip under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, there has been no direct communication between Pilot and the party's top leadership but intermediaries are still in play.

"The central leadership wants him to stay but he is sticking to his demand to be named the chief minister while the majority of the MLAs are with Gehlot," said a party leader.

However, unlike Jyotiraditya Scindia, Pilot has not said anything against the party or its top leadership. Last week, Gehlot sacked him as deputy CM and state party unit chief. P7

As Mysuru stayed indoors for the Sunday lockdown, a girl makes time to feed pigeons near Mysuru Palace | UDAYSHANKAR S

CM not in favour, but some mantris, health experts for longer lockdown

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH the weeklong lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts set to be lifted on July 22, the key question on everybody's mind is whether it will be extended by another week or not.

While Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has been quite categorical on not extending the lockdown, health department officials, at least two key ministers and all medical experts have suggested that it be extended by at least another week to complete the 14-day cycle of breaking the chain. Interestingly, the ministers in charge of the eight BBMP zones in Bengaluru are all for lifting of the lockdown completely, starting Wednesday.

"There will be no further lockdown, only lifting it. People's daily lives will be affected if it is extended, not just the government's affairs. The Chief Minister is also categorical about it," stressed Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwathnarayana.

The feeling, however, is not unanimous. Sources from the review meeting which Chief Minister Yediyurappa held on Friday said that ministers who have been seeking expert opinion frequently — like Health Minister B Sriramulu and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar — had proposed extending the lockdown by another week, based on experts' suggestions. This was also backed by the Health Department.

"It was conveyed to the CM that global trend suggests a lockdown should be implemented for 14 days to break the chain. He was also apprised that it will also give ward committees time to conduct door-to-door surveys. One week's lockdown would be futile with no real results," said the source, recalling suggestions made to the CM by the group lobbying for extension of the lockdown. P5

Safety is priority, no plan to reopen schools now

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

REFUTING claims that the government had decided to reopen schools in September, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar on Sunday cleared the air, saying these did not reflect the government's views, and that schools would be reopened only after making the atmosphere conducive and safe for students.

Kumar on Sunday said the government was yet to take a decision on reopening schools, and that opinions expressed by officials during a meeting were being misconstrued as the final word.

During a video conference with Central officials on July 15 on 'School Safety Plan', where representatives of the state government and Union territories expressed their views on reopening schools, the state education department had remarked that schools will reopen after September 1.

Karnataka was among half the states and Union territories in India which had given an estimated date of reopening to the Ministry of Human Resources & Development (MHRD). Several regions are still awaiting the MHRD and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines.

Among the South Indian states, Kerala too had proposed to open schools after August 31, while Andhra Pradesh gave a tentative date of September 5. However, Tamil Nadu and Telangana had remained undecided.

Of the high-incidence regions, Gujarat and Maharashtra remained undecided, while Delhi was looking to reopen schools in August.

"The government's priority on education during the Covid-19 situation is not the same as usual. Before we reopen schools, we need to ensure the atmosphere is conducive for students. So far, we haven't decided on reopening schools. Students and their parents need not panic," Suresh Kumar said.

Before we reopen schools, we need to ensure the atmosphere is conducive for students. Students and their parents need not panic

S Suresh Kumar, Primary and Secondary Education

STRONG MEASURES READY

Although unsure about the start of the new academic year, Suresh Kumar had earlier told *TNIE* that the department was ready with strong pedagogical measures so that no student is devoid of education even during these times.

SECOND CASE OF FIRING BY NEPAL POLICE, INDIAN HURT

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

A 25-year-old Indian national was shot in the shoulder by the Nepal Armed Border Force on Saturday evening near the Indo-Nepal border in Bihar's Kishanganj district. The injured youth, identified as Jitendra Kumar Singh, was searching for his cattle along with two other villagers when he was shot. According to sources, the youth went 300 metres into a no-man's land inside the Nepal side of border by mistake. This is the second incident of firing by Nepal forces in recent times. On June 12, an Indian national was killed in Sitamarhi district in Bihar when he was seen sitting near a no-man's land.

Call to incentivise *desi* APIs to reduce China dependence

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

TO reduce dependence on China for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), a report of the Ministry of Science and Technology has recommended a slew of measures, including a re-look at Custom Duty, to facilitate indigenous production. At present, India's pharma sector imports a whopping 68% of its API requirement from China.

Companies using indigenous API must get preference in government procurement, the report suggests while seeking priority licence renewal for API manufacturers. It also recommends relaxation in environment clearances and land acquisition for them.

"India has been manufacturing bulk of APIs till about two decades back... Given the changes in global norms, we quickly need to ensure API security in the country and prepare a national stockpile of generic medicines for critical illness," the report says.

In 2019, India imported ₹249 billion worth of intermediates and APIs, of which around ₹169 billion was from China. A total of 600 types of molecules of APIs and Drug Intermediates are imported, of which 58 molecules are sourced only from China.

India has the technology but needs to optimise cost by scaling up manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients.

Towards this end, common facilities such as solvent recovery plants, distillation plants, power and steam units should be established in bulk drug parks, it suggests.

EXPRESS READ

Gold smuggling kingpin picked up by Dubai cops

Kochi: Faisal Fareed, the prime accused in the smuggling of gold through diplomatic baggage, has been detained in Dubai. He was picked up from his house on Friday and is being grilled by the police. P5

Saba Karim asked 'to resign' from BCCI

New Delhi: Former India wicket-keeper Saba Karim has been asked to resign as BCCI General Manager - Cricket Operations. It is learnt that the Board was not satisfied with Karim's planning for domestic cricket. P11

Man held for posting fake hospital video

Bengaluru: Police nabbed a man for posting a fake video, purportedly of a dedicated Covid-19 ward in Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru, on social media. Sameer Ullah was caught just after he posted the video. P3

TOYING WITH IDEAS

Forget 'Chinapatna' toys, time to revive Channapatna beauties

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

CHINA or Channa? There has been a chorus for the boycott of Chinese toys and reviving the Channapatna toy industry. The standoff with China has now come as a blessing in disguise for these toys. For, it offers a big chance for bringing back the glory of the Channapatna toy industry.

Channapatna, known as the toy town of Karnataka, was seen floundering with its markets flooded with cheaper 'Made in China' products and livelihoods threatened till recently.

Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry president C R Janardhana said the positive aspect of this crisis could be the revival of the Channapatna toys at a global level. "The Chief Minister has already called for the toy industry here to be upgraded by incorporating electronic and digital elements into it. They are eco-friendly too. It will take some time but Channapatna could emerge as a global toy supplier," he said.

But for Bengaluru's toy industry, there seems to be little hope as of now. With 70 per cent of the much sought after modern toys imported from China, toy shops are surviving on whatever stocks have been imported in the past.

Three events this year created an unprecedented crisis for the industry. The supply disruption caused by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China, the increase of import duty by the Centre by 200% in February from 20% to 60% and the need to go in for double quality certification for imports to be implemented from September this year. The latest jolt for the industry is the strained relations between the two countries due to the military standoff and the subsequent campaign across the country to boycott Chinese brands.

There are an estimated 700 to 800 small toy shops and 200 to 300 large shops in Bengaluru, according to the Karnataka Toys Association. P5

The Chief Minister has already called for the toy industry here to be upgraded by incorporating electronic and digital elements into it. They are eco-friendly too. It will take some time but Channapatna could emerge as a global toy supplier

C R Janardhana, president, FKCCI

Channapatna toys are unique in that they are made exclusively of wood | EXPRESS

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of CITY EXPRESS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU | MONDAY 20.07.2020 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Monday** 20/07/2020 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana :** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Greeshma
• **Masa:** Ashada • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Amavasya 10.29 pm • **Nakshatra:** Punarvasu 9.39 pm
• Moon in Kataka Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH

MIN 22°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST
Tstorms late. Partly sunny

Sunrise	6.02 am
Sunset	6.49 pm
Moonrise	5.25 am
Moonset	6.40 pm

Off the streets, vendors struggle to earn a living

They were ignored even as govt relief came to cab drivers, washermen, barbers

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

BABU Khan, a 42-year-old street vendor selling purses in Shivajinagar, was in a fix when the lockdown was announced in March, and had little time to find a way to fend for his wife and children. He quickly took up a job as a Zomato delivery agent, hoping the income from this would help him tide over.

Though he managed to earn between Rs 10,000 and Rs 12,000 in March and April, the effects of the pandemic caught up. Now, he sits at home most of the time, and calls himself lucky if he gets even a delivery or two a day. "They do not allow us to sell our goods on the street. I have not paid my house rent and find it very difficult to survive. We need some sort of compensation from the government. I have sent applications to the BBMP requesting for the same," Khan told *The New Indian Express*.

His financial distress is not unique to him - this is the case with 90 per cent of vendors selling fast food, chaat, bags and purses, clothes, belts, and other petty items.

"Either the authorities close our shops and evict us, or if we manage to set up shop elsewhere, customers are few due to the fear of catching Covid. In smaller districts, they allow us to work for a couple of hours, but only if we work the whole day will we be able to sustain ourselves. The Majestic underpass, for instance, is entirely closed for vendors," said Uday Kumar, president of Karnataka Rajya Raste Beedhi Vyaparigala Mahamandala said.

Fruit and vegetable vendors are in a better position as they are allowed to work even during lockdowns. The Rs 10,000 loan under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi scheme has not reached any vendor due to some technical and non-technical issues.

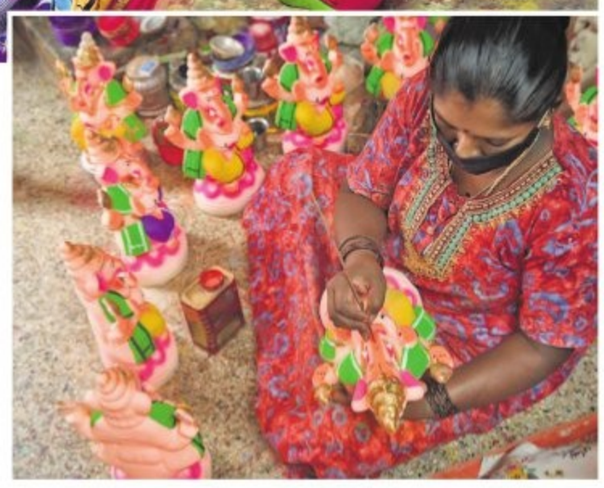
Street vendors have been asking for Rs 15,000 monthly compensation for the last three months or for their rent and kids' schools fees to be covered by the state government. While the government gave compensation to cab and auto drivers, washermen and barbers, street vendors have been ignored.

Bhaskar Urs, Vice President, National Association of Street Vendors of India, wrote to PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, the Central Urban Development Secretary and CM BS Yediyurappa, arguing that if Zomato, Swiggy, Pizza Hut and Dominos, etc, are being allowed to go about their business, why deprive food vendors. "We are providing Covid-19 training to food vendors. Cash transfers should be made at once to street vendors under National Urban Livelihoods Mission," he urged in the letter.

Co-operation Minister S T Somashekhar said there was no plan to provide compensation to street vendors.

The livelihood of street vendors is in peril due pandemic

PRAYING FOR GANESHA TO REMOVE COVID HURDLE



Potters give finishing touches to Ganesha idols that they made last year, at Pottery Town in Bengaluru. With Ganesha Chaturthi just a month away, potters normally look forward to reaping the harvest of their hard work. But amid the raging Covid pandemic,they have been left wondering what the future holds for them as no retailers have approached them and sales have tanked. They haven't paid their rents or bills and have been living off ration distributed to them by volunteers and charitable organisations. They hope that the government gives them a few days time despite the restrictions in place to allow them to sell the idols | MEGHANA SASTRY

Varsities in a fix on UGC exam deadline

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

UNIVERSITIES with affiliated colleges in the city are in a fix on how to meet the September 30 deadline set by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on conducting semester-end exams. Exams are a necessity, they agree, but conducting them with face-to-face classes remains a hurdle.

For Bangalore University, which has 296 affiliated colleges, the challenge is two-fold. Besides holding exams for all students, it is almost impossible to conduct face-to-face classes on campus as the hostel buildings at Jnana Bharathi campus are being used by the BBMP as a Covid Care Centre. "We are still thinking about how to go about it," said BU Vice-Chancellor K R Venugopal.

"Without exams, students will be at a disadvantage on the global level. The situation in Bengaluru is not conducive yet. It is ideal to wait a little longer instead of hurriedly holding exams," he added.

Bengaluru North University, which has 240 affiliated colleges, tentatively plans to conduct three weeks of face-to-face classes by mid-August, if things go back to normal, followed by exams in September-end, said Vice-Chancellor T D Kemparaju. Autonomous colleges have their own calendar of events. Mount Carmel College will conduct online semester-end exams for undergraduate and postgraduate students. It has also made it clear that students can take the exams later as well.

Students across the city have expressed their own apprehensions. "We are tested on subjects that were introduced to us 10 months ago, with a five-month gap between classes and exams," said a student from a private college.

BU invites applications for BA LLB

Bangalore University (BU) has invited applications for a five-year BA LLB (Honours) degree course at the University Law College, Jnana Bharathi, for academic year 2020-21. Candidates are required to fill the application form online on www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in or www.ulcbangalore.com. These applications need to be downloaded and submitted to 'The Principal, University Law College, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru -560 056' on or before July 31, along with self-attested copies of relevant documents.

308 corner sites on e-auction today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A total of 308 corner sites spread across the city are set to be e-auctioned on Monday (July 20), marking the second phase of sale of these coveted sites. The live bidding will begin at 11 am.

Sites will be auctioned in the following areas: Banashankari VI Stage: 1st Block, 4th Block and 11th Block; Sir M Visveswaraiah Layout: 2nd Block, 3rd Block, 4th Block, 5th Block, 6th Block, 7th Block and 9th Block; Further Extension of Sir M Visveswariah Layout 8th Block; Banashankari VI Stage: 6th Block, 9th Block and 10th Block; Further Extension of Anjanapura Layout: 9th Block and 11th Block; Further Extension of Anjanapura 5th Block G; Anjanapura Township Layout: 2nd Block, 5th Block and 8th Block.

A corner site at Banashankari

The initial bid price for the sites ranges between Rs 39,000 per sqmt (Sir M Visveswaraiah Layout 2nd Block and 4th Block) and Rs 58,370 per sqmt (Banashankari VIth Stage, 11th Block). The auction will take place on the portal: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Among the terms and conditions, is a deposit of Rs 4 lakh which is refundable; if one is successful in the bid, 25 per cent of the site cost needs to be remitted within 72 hours after deduction of the initial deposit, and 75 per cent to be paid within 45 days after receiving the allotment letter from BDA. Five minutes of delta time will be given after the last bid is placed, a notification said. All details related to the sites can be obtained from: bdabengaluru.org.

The last date of closing of the auction ranges on a specific date between August 6 and 12 for the sites, with 6 pm being the deadline for all sites. The closure date is being staggered for the sites, following the server's collapse due to overload in the final 20 minutes on the last day, during the first round of auction of 195 sites on July 7. It had to be extended to three days after that.

WORK PRESSURE

BDA OFFICIALS EXEMPTED FROM COVID DUTY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Following requests, the state government has exempted Bengaluru Development Authority officials from Covid duty.

This was because of numerous "pressing tasks" being carried out by the agency, said BDA Commissioner H R Mahadev.

In a release on Sunday, Mahadev lashed out at those who questioned the agency's move to seek exemption. "BDA officials are given the responsibility of selling and registering corner sites which will not happen on its own. It is trying hard to resolve the long-pending Arkavati Layout site allotment issue, and the allotment of land to farmers," he said.

BDA is working on regularisation of unauthorised constructions on its land as per the recent ordinance which, in itself, is a huge task, he said. "The agency is completing the acquisition of lands for Peripheral Ring Road. The government is keen on beginning the work on priority." The BDA is also preparing a plan for complete computerisation of its functioning.

"A digital register of all its properties to put an end to misuse, infra work on NPKL Layout and revision of Master Plan 2031 are other tasks officials are busy with," he added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

20th July: Mercury is still passing through exceptional regions of the sky, encouraging a rational approach to all problems - in the best possible sense. What I mean by that is that all ideas, offers and invitations should be treated with a touch of scepticism. After all, what looks true today may seem different tomorrow!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Although financial pressures and plans are still very much on your mind, you can now afford to put a few possible developments off until later. You're so full of good ideas that all you need now is an extra dose of confidence. And a little more tact!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's time for a fresh start. Emotional and psychological spring-cleaning should encourage you to put the past behind you and face the future with an open heart. You seem to be keeping a secret - and you may hang on to it for just a little while longer.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may now have to come into the open, so have your story ready and make sure you're capable of making yourself understood. Throughout the day you should find that your self-esteem is restored, and that it's no longer necessary to take refuge in your day-dreams.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's quite a good time to keep yourself to yourself, to find the time and space to listen to your imagination. You may even consider cancelling a social engagement. But before you take any precipitate action, realise that when the time comes, your feelings might have moved on.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may feel as if you are being forced to do something against your will or against your dignity. However, the best advice now is to press ahead and concentrate on making colleagues see your point of view. Gentle persuasion might work better then brute force. In fact, I'm sure it will!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You will soon be afforded a splendid chance to travel to somewhere you've never been before. In any event, you'll do yourself a very big favour if you extend and develop all contacts with companions in distant parts and people from different cultures.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Problems of a partnership or matrimonial nature should soon be faced. You may find that once you talk about your concerns, they begin to disappear and your innate sense of well-being returns. An old expense is about to return, but it's also time to collect a debt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Much as you'd like to be the centre of attention, you still have no choice but to listen to other people, understand their feelings and try to satisfy their desires. Financial choices are now appearing, but there is no need for a final decision just yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
When dealing with finances, business or property matters you should make a point of being as clear-headed as you can. Your heart tells you one thing, your wallet another, so seek expert advice. This is not a good time to give people the wrong idea about your intentions, so make sure you're not misunderstood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
This looks like a busy day, and it's time to call on your more versatile talents. In view of emotional complications, it seems likely that you'll have to juggle different balls in the air at the same time. It may not be easy, especially if a friend or colleague backs out of a commitment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Favourable planetary alignments are perfectly balanced by challenging ones, which means that you could have the best of both worlds. This should also be an ideal moment to put your plans into practice. Thought and action should go hand in hand, and your heart and your head should be leading you in the same direction.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
If you are feeling at all isolated or confused it is because your planetary cycles are now changing and you are being obliged to stand on your own two feet, emotionally speaking. In future, you will have to rely more on your resources and less on support from outside.

THE PHANTOM

THERE'S NO WAY SCAVENGERS DRAGGED OFF 600 POUNDS OF LION WITHOUT ME HEARING IT!
DEVIL, SURELY YOU WOULD HAVE JUMPED INTO THE FRAY!
GRR ROWW
Falk

HI AND LOIS

THERE'S THE MAILMAN.
SOMETIMES HE BRINGS THINGS TO THE DOOR AND PATS ME ON THE HEAD.
BUT NOT EVERY DAY...
I'M SURE HE HAS OTHER HEADS TO PAT.

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT, ELMO?
THAT NOTHING GOOD LASTS FOREVER
SO YOU FINISHED ALL YOUR EASTER CANDY?
YEAH, HOW'D YOU KNOW?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

	9	3						8
1		4	6					
				3	7	6		
9			7	6				
		6				4		
				1	4			5
		9	8	2				
					5	9		6
5						3	7	

EVIL

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	6	8	4	2	3	5	7	1
4	7	5	8	6	1	3	2	9
2	1	3	5	9	7	8	4	6
8	9	6	3	7	2	1	5	4
3	4	2	1	5	9	7	6	8
7	5	1	6	8	4	2	9	3
6	8	9	7	3	5	4	1	2
1	2	7	9	4	8	6	3	5
5	3	4	2	1	6	9	8	7

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUEEL

KKONC

CPLUTS

TUEPPP

It's expensive to explore the ocean. Luckily, you have the money.
What's the use of making millions if you can't spend it?
TO BUILD A SUBMARINE TO REACH THE OCEAN'S LOWEST POINT, IT TOOK ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOTTO SIXTH FIBULA CAMERA
Answer: When he said his favorite old T-shirt still fit him, it was a — BIT OF A STRETCH

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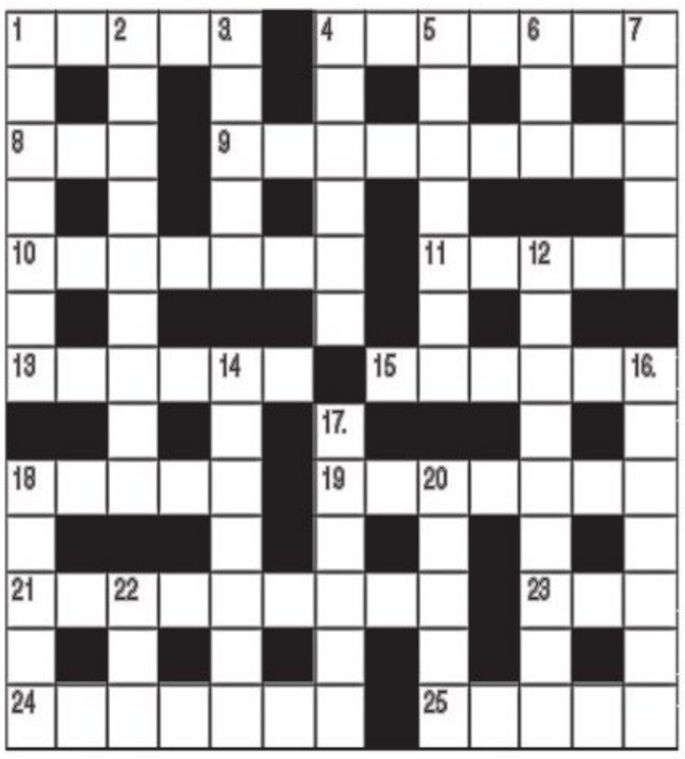
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Jog with no clothes on around Gateshead (5)
4 A lot of impetus is lost turning two directions (7)
8 It may be pierced or just pricked (3)
9 and 2 Down: The Book of Numbers (9,9)
10 It's short and possibly conical (7)
11 Solicit votes in the foyer (5)
13 Many a rascal will show which way the wind blows (6)
15 Reason for being milled (6)
18 Test the patience of a good man at a meeting (5)
19 A precious possession one is not bound to have (7)
21 Some French agitation produces delay (9)
23 It is laid for example on top of the grill (3)
24 It follows us back to bed to check the copy (7)
25 Is revolting (5)

DOWN

1 Irritated when necessity took first place (7)
2 See 9 Across
3 Dispatched to the interior? (5)
4 Free admittance? (6)
5 Turns up in chilly surroundings yet well received (7)
6 The Roman I have in mind (3)
7 One wants to be so described (5)
12 Unrestricted state of incapacitated kangaroo (9)
14 It's possibly true, Ted said (7)
16 Mother takes a long time to get compensation (7)
17 Pretend to have influence (6)
18 The main comings and goings (5)
20 Start to penetrate (5)
22 Deception that confuses FBI (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Enterprise, 8 Ceuta, 9 Deflect, 10 Turmoil, 11 Nasal, 12 Honest, 14 System, 17 Chase, 19 Exploit, 21 Scorpio, 22 Drips, 23 First-class.

Down: 2 Neutron, 3 Erato, 4 Paddle, 5 Infancy, 6 Evens, 7 Stalemates, 8 Cut the cost, 13 Sleeper, 15 Tropics, 16 Retort, 18 Aloof, 20 Pedal.

"If CFR or case fatality rate can drop below 1% then we can cope with spike in total positivity rate. The surge is also related to the rise in asymptomatic positive cases who are mild n recovering fast. So let's not panic," tweeted Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Punish those targeting Covid victims: Oppn

Government must work towards removing stigma around patients and their kin, say Congress, JDS leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS cases of ill-treatment and stigmatizing of Covid victims and families have been increasing alarmingly across the State, the Opposition Congress and JDS reacted with shock and concern and urged the police and administration to deal firmly with these "lawless" elements. Bengaluru has reported many such incidents, compared to the rest of the State. Social media was abuzz with specifics of these ghastly attacks.

In one such case, Ravi Kumar (name changed), a resident of Koramangala who tested positive for Covid-19 and was treated and sent back, was in for a rude shock when his landlady and neighbours said he cannot occupy his flat in the apartment complex. They insulted him and objected to him and his two young teenage sons using the common area. As matters went beyond control, Kumar seriously considered fleeing the rented premises. Kumar, when contacted by *TNIE*, said he felt helpless.

In another case, a former journalist residing in Southwest Bengaluru said his cousin succumbed to Covid-19. When grieving members of the family passed through the street, near Mysuru Road, neighbours hurled bleaching powder at them and some abuse too.

Police personnel monitor motorists due to the complete lockdown in Yeshwanthpur on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Former CM H D Kumaraswamy took to social media to highlight the issue, and said the system to identify Covid victims by marking their houses is unjust. He said it was making neighbours ostracize them. He asked Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to stop this public identification of Covid families.

"No one wants to become sick or unwell. Hence, we need to take care of Covid-19 patients with kindness and empathy. I recall what the poet-philosopher Sarvagna said, 'If you look after your neighbour like you look after yourself, it is like reaching Kailasa Parvath'," said KPCC working president Eshwar Khandre. "The police and authorities should pull up those responsible for these ugly acts. If need be, the authorities could look for a way to bring in a new law against this inhuman conduct and gross discrimination," he said. Minister Suresh Kumar told *TNIE*, "No Covid victim or family should be discriminated against or treated as untouchable because of Covid. Uncivilized behaviour will not be tolerated."

MP Suresh cremates Covid victim to create awareness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AT a time when fear and misinformation about those who die of Covid-19 has caused scuffles and protests in Karnataka, Congress Lok Sabha MP from Bengaluru Rural D K Suresh gave an elderly man who died of the virus a respectful final adieu. Armed with personal protective kits, Suresh joined designated health department workers in performing the last rites of 73-year-old Narasimha Shetty of Kanakapura on Sunday.

His initiative, the MP said, was aimed at dispelling misinformation about the spread of the virus from the deceased that is leading to many funerals being stalled across the State. Suresh's gesture was much appreciated by netizens. "There is no harm to anyone because of people who die of Covid-19. A lot of misinformation has been peddled in this regard and because of that there have been instances of people disallowing burials or cremations, protesting and stalling last rites. This isn't our culture," he said adding that he hopes his initiative will create awareness among people.

MP D K Suresh gets into a PPE suit before conducting the last rites of a Covid victim in Bengaluru on Sunday

The lone Congress MP from Karnataka was seen offering prayers, lighting incense sticks and garlanding the mortal remains of the deceased before lighting the funeral pyre.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Cong shakes off limbo, goes into hyper mode

The joke goes that when everyone was busy working, Congress was in shutdown mode for months, especially after its poor showing in the parliamentary elections. Both Siddaramaiah and Dinesh Gundu Rao had resigned, and the party was in limbo all through December, January and February. But when Covid-19 landed in March, sending everyone scurrying indoors, the Congress came out, much like the jellicle cats, to take on a beleagured administration. Newly-minted KPCC president D K Shivakumar's continuous meetings have exasperated elders in the Congress, who grumble sotto voce, "When everyone is shut at home because of corona, we need to come here and expose ourselves to the virus." Well, DKS has arrived, and with a bang.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with fire force personnel, sprays disinfectant around Kempegowda Bus Stand in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Ministers invoke the saviour

Looks like Covid has left our ministers quite rattled. Last week, Health Minister B Sreeramulu sent people into a tizzy when he threw up his hands, and said that everything was in "God's hands". Recently, his counterpart, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar had set the bar, waxing eloquent on the Puranas and invoking Lord Shiva. He spoke about the churning of the ocean, the poison which was whipped up and consumed by Shiva, thus saving the world. But now, with the coronavirus seeping in insidiously, who will be our Vishakanta? Certainly not these two gentlemen...

Don't threaten medical colleges: HDK to Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday took to social media to suggest to the Karnataka government that they must not threaten medical college hospitals with cancellation of licence, but win them over and take them into confidence. There are 11 private medical colleges in Bengaluru, and the government had called for a meeting with these colleges on Saturday. Together, they have about 3,500 beds and massive medical infrastructure, necessary to battle Covid, besides a number of trained medical staff. Efforts are on to rope them into the fight against Covid.

Kumaraswamy pointed out that while it was wrong for any hospital to deny treatment, it was also not correct on the part of the government to threaten private medical colleges. "Private college hospitals are concerned about offering 50 per cent beds, as suggested, because of the concern that if Covid patients are there, other patients will not come. Some, like Ambedkar Medical College, have offered everything to the government, while some are making alternative arrangements.

Rajarajeshwari Medical College Hospital has offered to support the government, and is catering to the whole of Ramanagara district.

Cops arrest man for posting fake Victoria Hospital video on FB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ACTING swiftly on a false video posted on a social media platform, purportedly of a dedicated Covid-19 ward in Victoria Hospital, Central Crime Branch (CCB) police nabbed a man within a few hours after he posted the video.

The accused, Sameer Ullah (46), is a resident of Tilaknagar and a timber merchant. On Saturday night, he posted a video from his Facebook profile, Saif Adds. The video is of scores of people wearing masks, gathered in a small space in a hospital, and the person filming it expresses concern that it is a threat to medical staff and patients.

Saif Adds claimed it was a scene from Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru. Within minutes, the video went viral. Police, who took up the matter seriously, registered a case with the Cyber Crime police station, under provisions of the Information Technology Act, National Disaster Management Act and IPC.

Sleuths zeroed in on the profile of Saif Adds. "Through the IP address and other details, he was traced to Tilaknagar and arrested on Sunday afternoon," an official said.

> **The video which went viral about Victoria Hospital is fake, and has no link to Victoria Hospital or any hospital in Karnataka. People should be careful not to share or forward any false video**
>
> JCP (Crime) Sandeep Patil

"The accused claimed that he had got the video on WhatsApp, and the sender had said it was Victoria Hospital, and he posted it without verifying. We are trying to find out who spread this false information," the official added.

JCP (Crime) Sandeep Patil said, "The video which went viral about Victoria Hospital is fake, and has no link to Victoria Hospital or any hospital in Karnataka. People should be careful not to share or forward any false video or message about the pandemic."

The profile of the accused revealed that he had links with some political leaders, and had shared photos of himself with a former minister and police officer.

Farmers to observe Black Day on August 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

TO intensify their protest against the amendments to Land Reforms Act, farmers' organisations have decided to observe Independence Day as Black Day. Under the leadership of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sena, farmers have raised a banner of revolt against the ordinance to amend the Act.

Farmer leader Vidya Sagar said they will also stage protests against the ordinance on Farmer Martyr's Day on July 21. "The ordinance has exposed Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's anti-farmer policies," he said. He charged that the CM wants to take away farmers' land and help corporates in taking control of the agricultural sector. Sagar warned the government to roll back the amendment and not to push farmers to take the extreme step.

Meanwhile, noted writer Devanoor Mahadeva held talks with former minister H C Mahadevappa, KRRS president Badagalapura Nagendra, DSS activist Hoskote Basavaraju, and activist Vasu on the ordinance. They also plan to rope in other progressive organisations who believe in farmers' welfare.

CRIME PATROL

Man arrested for duping people over govt schemes

Bengaluru: DJ Halli police on Saturday arrested a man for allegedly cheating locals on the pretext of helping them avail government scheme benefits, under the guise of a national political party member. The accused is Abdul Saleem (32), a resident of KG Halli. Police said Saleem had created a fake identity card using the seal and symbol of a national party. He offered to help people avail BPL cards, pension and jobs, stating that he was acquainted with ministers, local MLAs and other politicians. In return, he took money from them. On discovering this, the party's IT cell filed a case and based on a tip-off, the police arrested him at his residence. Saleem told the police that he had duped more than 50 people in the area. ENS

No bail for 3 college girls accused of kidnapping men

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

A city court rejected the anticipatory bail plea of three girl students of a popular college in the city who had allegedly kidnapped two male friends.

The accused are second-year degree students. On December 2, 2019, the prime accused allegedly asked her friend, the complainant, to come near a wedding hall in Muddinapalya saying her friend was getting married. The victim arrived with a friend and four men attacked and abducted them.

The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of Rs 2 lakh and also asked them to delete some photos from the complainant's laptop. They had taken them near Yediyur on Hassan Road, where one of the victims escaped. The next morning, the kidnappers released the other person. He later filed a complaint with Annapoorneshwari Nagar police. "Investigations revealed that the complainant and another man were friends with the three girls. They later had a fallout and the girls orchestrated the kidnapping," the police said.

Meanwhile, the girls, fearing arrest, had moved an anticipatory bail petition in the 62nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Court. Their advocate had contended that the petitioners are innocent. "The names of the petitioners are not disclosed in the complaint or in the FIR. If they are arrested without committing a crime, their life will be spoilt," he stated.

The public prosecutor said, "The investigation is incomplete and if the petitioners are granted bail, they may threaten the witnesses or commit similar offences. The possibility of them escaping cannot be ruled out."

Judge R Onkarappa dismissed their petition on Thursday.

Hospital vandalised over 'delay' in treatment

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

FOUR people of a family allegedly vandalised a private hospital on Jigani Link Road around 7.30 pm Saturday over 'delay in treatment'. Following the incident, shocked doctors, nurses and paramedical staff at the hospital are now said to be reluctant to return to work.

A two-year-old child had suffered a cut on the tongue after a fall and was brought to ACE-Suhas Hospital by the family and relatives. According to Dr Jagadish Hiremath, CEO of the hospital, the staff attended to the patient and cleaned up the wound. As it required stitches, the staff called for the surgeon who had already gone back home. By the time the surgeon arrived, the family and relatives vandalised the hospital.

Dr Hiremath said, "There is a standard operating procedure wherein the family needs to fill a form and the patient is sent to casualty ward for checks. This took some time as the staff strength has reduced. After the initial process, we had to call the surgeon to return and we asked the family to wait for 10 more minutes. The surgeon just took 10 minutes to arrive, but by then they vandalised the hospital. All of them were drunk."

Furniture and flower pots were thrown and glass items broken, the hospital staff said. One of them even claimed that she was abused by the family. "They used foul language and I was so scared. I'm still not over the traumatic incident and do not want to resume work. They even threatened not to leave anyone," said a staffer.

Dr Hiremath said the hospital also has Covid patients and now the staff are scared to work. " Already, more than 20 staffers, including doctors and nurses, have left due to Covid-19 fear. After this incident of vandalism, our staffers are scared. They do not want to continue to work. I have been talking to them and counselling them. They are demanding some sort of protection from the police," he said.

Dr Hiremath has lodged a complaint at the Jigani police station. "A case of vandalism was filed against Satish, a daily-wage worker, and his relatives. However, there was not assault on the staff. We are yet to arrest the accused," a police officer said.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

AUCTION SALE OF HOUSE ON 05.08.2020

That pursuant to the order of Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Bengaluru City (CCH-32) in F.D.P. No.16/18, the property more fully described in the schedule herein below will be sold in public auction, to be held at 11am on 05.08.2020 at the schedule premises.

Any person/s or institution/s interested to participate in the auction may do so subject to following terms and conditions:

1. The particulars mentioned in the schedule are to the best of information of court as furnished by the parties.
2. The property is being sold in 'as is where is' condition. The interested bidders may visit the scheduled premises on 03.08.2020 for inspection of the schedule property between 10 am to 12 pm with prior intimation to Court Commissioner.
3. The interested bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Only) on the date of auction as EMD. The upset price is fixed at Rs.2,15,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifteen Lakhs Only).
4. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (inclusive of EMD amount) on the same day with the court commissioner without any delay.
5. The final bid amount, after deducting the initial deposits made, shall be deposited by the successful bidder before the Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru, within a period of 15 days from the date of auction.
6. In case of default by the successful bidder either in purchase money or initial deposits, the auction held will be deemed to have been set aside and the property will be re-auctioned after issuing of a fresh notification of sale. In case of default, the deposits made by the bidder will be forfeited towards solarium for re-sale as may be determined by the court.
7. All the payments required to be made shall be by way of Demand Drafts in the name of "The Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru" and deposited with the Court Commissioner.
8. The sale is subject to confirmation of the Hon'ble court.
9. The Court Commissioner is at liberty to follow any other procedures for the smooth conducting of public auction in accordance with law, including cancellation, postponement and confirmation of auction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of site No. 148 formed by the Bangalore development authority, 14th main, IVth block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, Consisting of RCC building with ground, first and second floor measuring east to west 12ms and North to south 9.15ms, in all measuring 109.80 square meters and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Site No.132
North by : Site No.147
South by : Site No.149

Court Commissioner:
K.M. Shamanna, Advocate,
Off at: No.8, 2nd Floor,
10th Main, 6th 2nd B Cross,
Vasanthappa Block, C.B.I.Main Road,
Ganganagar, Bengaluru-560 032
09845187975
shamannakmadv@gmail.com

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Directorate of Construction, Services & Estate Management
Centralized Quantity Division

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No. : DCSEM/CQD/QSC/GCNEP-II/Campus-site/SS/05/07-2020, dt.16.07.2020

Head, Electrical Division, DCSEM, DAE, V.S. Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94 on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender (in two bid) through e-tendering mode, from eligible contractors for the work **"Providing 33/0.433 KV, 2x2.5MVA Sub station and external works for GCNEP Campus site at Kheri Jassaur, Bahadurgarh, Haryana."** Estimated cost **Rs.1168 lakh,** EMD Rs.21,68,000/-, Completion period: 10 months and cost of tender processing fee Rs.5,900/-. Detailed tender notice along with documents are available on website; **www.tenderwizard.com/DAE** . The processing fees shall be paid in the form of e-payment in favour of ITI Limited New Delhi. Tender documents for view / download from 21.07.2020 (11:00 hrs.) to 11.08.2020 (15:00 hrs.). Pre-bid clarifications from 21.07.2020 (12:00 hrs.) to 14.08.2020 (15:00 hrs.). Closing of online submission of tenders up to 17:00 hrs. on 07.09.2020. Receipt of hard copies towards EMD up to 15:00 hrs. on 08.09.2020. Opening of online tender (technical bids) on 09.09.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Financial bids of qualified bidders shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately. Detailed NIT is also available on website **www.dcsem.gov.in**. for view only. For further information, please contact on 022-25487416/7414/7464 Fax: 022-25565362.

AXIS BANK

Axis Bank Ltd, #45, Prestige Libra, 1st Floor Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027 Landmark - Above Passport Seva Kendra>
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai- 400025.

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold no **"As is where is" , "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 05.08.2020** for recovery of **Rs. 29,99,134/-** (due as on 27-October-2016) along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization) due to the secured creditor from **Mr. TM Chandrasekar (Applicant), Mrs. Durga Bhavani (Co-applicant).** The reserve price will be **Rs. 46,71,983/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 4,67,198/-**
Last date of submission of bid is on 04.08.2020.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/ Secured Assets possessed and put for sale.	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR 000900 498427	**SCHEDULE A PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel land converted land measuring 3 Acre 06.77 Guntas in Sy. No. 37 now bearing New BBMP Khata No: 608/Sy No: 37 Ward No: 193 Situated at Nyanapanahalli Village, Begur Hobli Bangalore South Taluk Converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide official memorandum form the office of the deputy commissioner, bearing No: LND(G.Land) Auction.cR6/05-06 dated 05.05.2008 and is bounded on:- East by: Sy No. 4, 38 and 40 ft Road West by: Sy no. 36 North by: Sy No. 36 South by: Sy No. 4. **SCHEDULE B PROPERTY:** 0.372% Undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property mentioned above which would works out of 514.36 Square feet in the Schedule A Property. **SCHEDULE C PROPERTY:** Apartment No. 529 on Fifty Floor measuring Super built up area of 1169 Square feet in the residential apartment building called "MAHAVEER RHOYOLITE" being constructed on the Schedule-A Property with the floors (Having vitrified tails Flooring), Ceiling and walls between units jointly belonging to such Apartment owners equally, along with common rights in respect of common areas and amenities with on covered car parking Area in Basement/Ground Floors and Said apartment is bounded on the:- East By: Corridor West By: Driveway North By: Unit No. 531 South By: Staircase	Not Known to the secured Creditor

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/

Date : 20.07.2020
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd.

TRACKING COVID-19

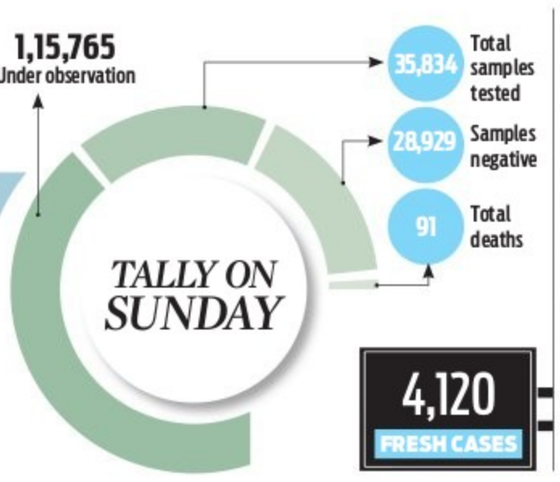
Teams of senior officers are being constituted that will be led by one officer each from BWSSB and BESCOM to ensure private medical institutions adhere to government rules. Officers must check on Covid patient admissions referred by the BBMP

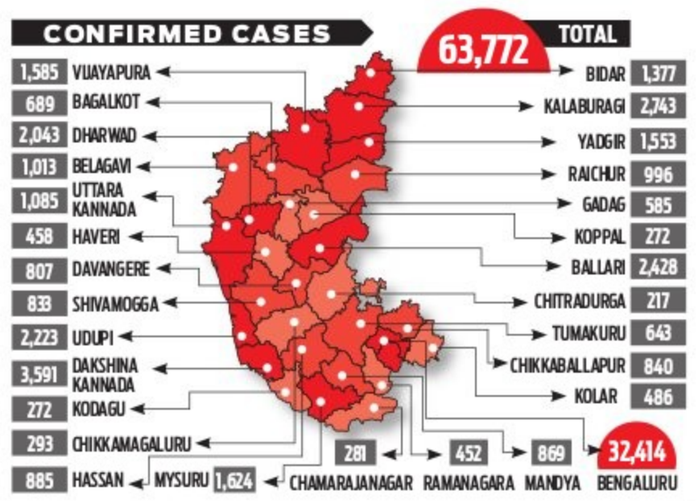
1,290 NEW RECOVERIES

23,065 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





Stray cattle and a dog outside the Covid ward at BIMS, Belagavi, on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

RAPID ANTIGEN KITS ON TASK FORCE'S AGENDA

Meet today, talks to revolve around virus spread: Addl Chief Secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Covid Task Force will meet on Monday to review the Covid situation and discuss new strategies to tackle the increasing number of cases across the state, especially in Bengaluru.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Jawaid Akhtar, told TNIE, "We will discuss how and when to use rapid antigen kits as a matter of policy. Many other significant issues to deal with the Covid situation will also come up."

Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal, who is part of another expert committee to tackle Covid, said, "The way forward is to rethink the lockdown, because its continuation may be difficult and not useful. Its economic impact and all other aspects should be kept in mind before taking a decision."

He said, "The cases are expected to go up and there is no need to panic. There are enough COVID Care Centres to ensure that hospitals are not burdened and there are a sufficient number of beds too. What we need to focus on is preventive measures and reverse isolation of the elderly and high-risk patients. We may have to go through hardships for another few weeks. If it can be controlled in Delhi, Mumbai and Dharavi, it can be done in our state too. Cases will increase because we are conducting more tests. We should remember that the mortality rates are low. If we plan it right, we should have facilities to take care of Covid patients for the next few months. Also, it will probably be impossible to do contact tracing, as our crucial resources will be diverted towards it. The three priority areas should be, caring for the sick, ensuring adequate prevention and taking care of the elderly and high-risk patients."

20 MORE LABS TO RAMP UP TESTING

Bengaluru: The government will seek to add 20 labs to the existing 85 over the next few days, and try to complete the backlog in testing samples soon. The number of tests has crossed 35,000 per day, so the number of cases could spike but there is no cause for worry, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said. "There are 198 wards in Bengaluru, and training has started for ward-level and booth-level staff. Booth staff will cover a maximum of about 400 houses, and list out ILI and SARI cases in their areas to ensure speedy treatment and isolation," he said. There are two ambulances per ward, and more stationed in containment areas. Each ambulance has a dashboard equipped with information on where beds are available, to move patients rapidly, Sudhakar said. He refused to accept that there could be community transmission, saying that if this was the case, the numbers would run into lakhs. He said about 95 per cent of the cases so far were asymptomatic, and patients who showed no symptoms were encouraged to stay at home and isolate themselves. ENS

Comorbidity behind Victoria deaths: Expert

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AFTER a controversy broke out over a very high number of deaths in the ICU of century-old Victoria Hospital three days ago, a senior doctor has attributed the fatalities to severe comorbidity and late referrals to the hospital in mid-July, while iterating that "the facts were projected in a wrong way" by a section of the media.

The doctor, who is privy to the details of cases coming to Victoria Hospital ICU, but preferred not to be named, told *TNIE* that of the 98 patients who died (until July 17), "We had intubated 91 patients due to inadequate support from non-invasive ventilation (which means their disease process was severe). One patient had an acute abdominal emergency requiring surgery, which is again a high risk in Covid-positive patient. The literature points to 20% more mortality among post-operative Covid patients. He was intubated, successfully ventilated, extubated and discharged to the ward. Of the 98 deaths, 16 (11 intubated) were due to various reasons, like myocardial infarction, stroke, head injury, advanced stages of cancer, but were incidentally Covid-positive without symptoms," the specialist said.

Another 15 patients died within 12 hours of admission to the ICU which suggests that there was a deterioration in their condition during transit, "and they cannot be considered as ICU deaths. Around 16 patients had chronic kidney diseases and were dialysis dependant. Their condition was worsening due to irregular dialysis, which had led to their respiratory failure," the doctor said.

Victoria Hospital witnessed a surge in deaths in the post-lockdown period between June 1 and 15 when patients were referred from various hospitals as per the guidelines then.

"Now, there are 247 ICU admissions, of which 39 patients are in various stages of recovery. In all, 110 patients were successfully discharged home from ICU. Among them, at least 30 were referred for intubations but were managed with awake proning, non-invasive ventilation and high-flow nasal oxygen.

"Quoting only the negative aspects will not only dent the confidence and drain the enthusiasm of the hard-working team of Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute (BMCRI) (of Victoria Hospital), but will also create panic and chaos among the public that will have repercussions beyond healthcare," the specialist added.

Corona cases cross 60,000-mark

Hebbal Electric Crematorium workers have a busy Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the state reporting 4,120 Covid-positive cases on Sunday, the tally crossed the 60,000 mark and stood at 63,772. Bengaluru again contributed a major chunk with 2,156 cases.

In all, 91 patients died and of them, 36 were from Bengaluru, taking the state's toll to 1,331. Most of the deceased were patients with fever, cough and breathlessness. However, there was one case of an 82-year-old man, who was asymptomatic with diabetes and admitted on July 2, died the next day.

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar tweeted that the state has crossed the 10 lakh test-mark with 10,20,830 samples tested across 88 labs. Of these, 22,066 are RT-PCT tests, 166 CBNAAT tests, 548 TrueNAT tests and 13,054 rapid antigen tests.

Contact and travel history of 1,835 cases was not traced. Of the positive patients, 231 were with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness, 1,164 with influenza-like illness, 130 with domestic travel history and nine with international travel history. Dakshina Kannada stood second after Bengaluru with 285 positive cases.

'SAINIK FOR DOCS' FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

Bengaluru: A Bengaluru-based shared mobility solutions provider is mobilising hundreds of ex-servicemen to assist state governments and district administrations in Covid fight. They have launched 'Sainik for doctors' to ferry healthcare workers. The service was launched recently at BMRCI. "These vehicles will ensure social distancing. An acrylic partition divides drivers and passengers, PPE, sanitiser and masks will be given," Capt Sanjay Kumar Singh, Head of Partnerships, MotherPod said.

COVID WATCH

NGO ROPED IN FOR HOME ISOLATION MONITORING

Bengaluru: Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Commissioner, Department of Health and Family Welfare has roped in Swasth, a non-profit consortium of healthcare partners, to discuss implementing a system to monitor home isolation for asymptomatic or mildly-symptomatic Covid patients. Swasth will work with the state to implement a 10-day care package through service providers for patients isolating at home for one month. This package will include daily monitoring of patients by healthcare professionals. State health authorities will inspect patients' homes to ensure it is feasible to enrol them under the programme. They will upload patient details to the Swasth platform, which will then forward it to service providers. If the patients' condition worsens, he/she can get in touch with an emergency contact provided. The patient shall be discharged at the end of the 10-day period if he/she has no symptoms and maintains an oxygen saturation level above 95%. Swasth will share a daily report with the government.

In just a week, cases double in Vijayapura

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Vijayapura

COVID cases are rising at an alarming rate in Vijayapura. In the last five days, fresh cases have spiked at a rate of 10.9 per cent, against the state's 7.5 per cent.

It just took a week for positive cases to double in the district. On June 11, the district's tally stood at 758 cases. In a span of seven days, a whopping 827 cases were added.

According to the district health bulletin, "Authorities have collected nearly 40,000 samples for Covid-19 testing, 70 per cent of which have been collected from vulnerable localities in and around Vijayapura city. Among the collected samples, 1,585 have tested positive, while 36,334 tested negative."

Among the district's taluks, Vijayapura is the worst affected with more than 1,000 positive cases, and over 95 per cent of them were reported in the city corporation limits alone. Meanwhile, Kolhar taluk has seen only seven cases so far. Also, the fatality rate in the district stands at 1.2 per cent, which is lower than the state's 2.1 per cent.

"Though cases are being reported rapidly, patients are recovering at the same pace. We have a discharge rate over 65 per cent, with a fatality rate below 1.5 per cent," Deputy Commissioner Y S Patil told TNIE.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Bagalkot, the situation continues to worsen, as 10 more policemen tested positive. At least four stations have been sealed for a couple of days.

A row of ambulances parked on JC Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

3.7K families hire own ambulance

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THIS group of resident welfare associations believes self-help is the best help. After hearing horror stories of shortage of ambulances leading to deaths of Covid, Covid suspect and non-Covid patients, the 'Changemakers of Kanakapura' has rented an ambulance exclusively to cater to 3,700 families.

The Changemakers is a federation of 37 RWAs and apartments on Kanakapura Road. They are pool sharing the cost and it works out to Rs 60 per month per family. The vehicle will be on standby near Konankunte Cross on Kanakapura Road with ICU-trained nursing staff and driver.

"A resident who suffered a heart attack passed away as the hospital said their ambulance was unavailable and could reach only after an hour. In another case, a person who suffered a mild heart attack and was breathless could not get an ambulance because all hospitals feared

it was a Covid case. Finally, the family had to take him in a car," said Abdul Aleem, a member of Changemakers.

The ambulance, provided by JK Ambulance Service, costs Rs 2 lakh per month, and is equipped with a ventilator, ambu bag, suction apparatus, bain circuit, PPE kits, cardiac monitor, infusion pump and oxygen cylinder. Three nurses on three eight-hour shifts, and two drivers on 12-hour shifts are assigned to the vehicle.

It will cater to residents from the Sarakki Signal to NICE Road Junction. "If needed, the vendor has promised to give us one more ambulance at the same time," Aleem said. "Whether a patient is Covid-positive or not, the ambulance is fully sanitised after each hospital trip," he added.

Rapid test shows +ve rate of 30% in Mysuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

IN a worrying trend, rapid Covid testing being conducted in the areas under the Dharavi model in the north-eastern parts of Mysuru city has thrown up a high number of positives in just two days.

On the first day on Saturday, out of 37 tests such tests done, 13 positives emerged, while on Sunday, out of 100 tests, over 30 were positive, said the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner. This shows a positivity rate of over 30 per cent.

Authorities have been conducting extensive door-to-door surveillance focusing on the vulnerable population in the areas around NR Constituency. The Dharavi model of containment was announced by the authorities following a spike in positives in the district.

Those identified through the survey are being taken through rapid antigen testing and now some have tested positive.

The district administration has enforced a week-long mini lockdown in Narasimharaja, Mandi Mohalla, Udayagiri and Lashkar Mohalla police station limits along with 400 containment zones around homes where Covid deaths were reported in KHB Colony, Udayagiri, Rajiv Nagar, Beedi Colony and Sathagalli.

The authorities announced that they will use 800 such rapid test kits out of the total 2,300 test kits assigned to the district. Meanwhile, MP Pratap Simha, heading the NR Constituency task force, has formed a ten-member volunteer team for every ward. The constituency has seen several meetings with local and religious leaders to ensure containment and testing since many were averse to testing.

Also, wide publicity is being given asking people with symptoms to report to PHCs. Special helplines have been set up as an initiative of leaders like former mayor Ayub Khan.

BBMP GETS 50K KITS TO TEST VULNERABLE CATEGORIES

Bengaluru: As per the latest SOP, 50,000 rapid antigen testing kits given to the BBMP must be used to test vulnerable categories of society. These include symptomatic individuals. SARI cases, people with co-morbidities, senior citizens above 60 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers, frontline workers, all suffering from ILI fall under in the target group. "Wards with high number of positive cases, slums, congested areas, containment zones and hotspots shall be prioritised," the guidelines read. Swab collection will be decentralized and done at the booth level, with a dedicated nodal officer at the Zonal Command Centre. Containment zone swab collection will be done right there using mobile medical units. ENS

Media doing a great job, but should balance news: NIMHANS expert

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

MEDIA has played a very significant role in the last few months in educating and spreading awareness on Covid-19, but there seems to be an 'infodemic' on the pandemic, which needs to be balanced by other news stories and information, according to Dr S K Chaturvedi, senior professor, psychiatry, NIMHANS.

"There has been so much attention on health in the last three and a half months. There is a need for a lockdown on the media because an overload of information also leads to unfounded worries and public anxiety. There has been no other news other than Covid in the media except Vikas Dubey (the UP gangster, who had massacred eight cops and was later shot dead in an encounter). There should be a balance," he said during a webinar organised by the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) on Saturday for media personnel and students. The webinar was inaugurated by NIMHANS Director Dr Gangadhar.

He added that Covid has adversely affected everyone. "The concept of home is lost because home has become the workplace, gym and school for a family. Media professionals are also under stress. There is risk of reporting on Covid cases on the ground along with the stress of missing out on news," said Dr Chaturvedi.

Dr Naveen Kumar, professor of psychiatry, said, "Media can play a big role in taking the stigma out of the infection. Stigma undermines social cohesion and prevents people from going for early testing. Media alone can help in giving proper information on the infection, the rate of recovery and preventive measures," he said.

Dr Meena K S, additional professor and head, Department of Mental Health Education, NIMHANS, spoke about the role of media as a key stakeholder in building resilient communities. "They should state facts and not use scary adjectives like 'killer virus', 'super spreaders' or something we recently heard – vishkanya," she said.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said he has made arrangements to procure 5,000 rapid antigen test kits from South Korea for testing in Thiruvananthapuram due to the spike in cases

VANDE BHARAT

4th phase aims to bring back over 11K people

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE ongoing fourth phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, which aims to bring Indian nationals back from different countries, plans to bring 11,503 people to Karnataka. A total of 66 flights will facilitate this repatriation.

While most of these flights will bring passengers to Bengaluru, some flights from Gulf nations will land at the Mangaluru airport. A vast chunk of these special flights will be run by Air India and Air India Express, with Go Air and IndiGo chipping in.

As per the website of the Ministry of External Affairs, the fourth phase for Karnataka started on July 4 and will end on August 1. Majority of passengers will be from Gulf countries and 22 flights will be operated from there places. They will take off from Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Dammam, and Jeddah. There will be 10 trips from the United States, eight from the United Kingdom, one each from South Africa, Sweden, Japan, and Malaysia, two each from Singapore and Germany, and three from Canada.

All the flights from US to Bengaluru will stop in New Delhi en route while those from UK will come via Mumbai or New Delhi. One-third of the 66 proposed flights are yet to arrive in Karnataka. This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change based on demand.

Prime accused Faisal nabbed in Dubai

UAE cops grill him in connection with gold smuggling case; could be extradited soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

FAISAL Fareed, the prime accused in the smuggling of gold through diplomatic baggage, has been picked up in Dubai. Officials in the customs department and NIA confirmed that Faisal, hailing from Kaipamangalam in Thrissur, is in the custody of Dubai Police now. Investigators believe Faisal is the one who sent a consignment to the Thiruvananthapuram UAE consulate Charge d' Affaires Rashed Alshemelli from which 30kg of gold was recovered.

"We can confirm that Faisal is in the custody of Dubai police. The Indian embassy had passed on all information about him based on the probe conducted by agencies in India to the UAE. The Gulf country is also conducting a probe into the smuggling of gold and the involvement of diplomats. It was found that some documents, including the emblem of the UAE mission in Thiruvananthapuram, were forged to send gold in the baggage addressed to a diplomat which is a matter of concern for the UAE. Faisal is likely to be sent to India soon," a source in the NIA told TNIE.

Besides the customs case, the NIA had registered a separate case attributing terror angle to the smuggling episode. Faisal is the third accused in the case registered by the central agency. The NIA court in Kochi had issued an open-end non-bailable warrant against him on Tuesday, following which the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a lookout circular to intercept him.

The NIA also approached Interpol to issue a Blue Notice against him.

Faisal, who runs a business in the UAE, resides with his family at Al Rashidiya in Dubai. He was picked up from his residence on Friday and is being interrogated by the police, sources said.

It is not yet clear whether Faisal will be handed over to the NIA or Customs first.

With the NIA including terrorism in its charges against Faisal, the agency is likely to get his custody first. "There is a counter-terrorism treaty signed by India and the UAE in 2018 which will help in expediting the extradition of the accused from abroad. Faisal will be sent back to India after the probe by the UAE," a source said.

Faisal had denied his involvement in the case and said that he did not know the other persons who were arrested for smuggling. Both the NIA and Customs, however, maintained that he is a seasoned smuggler operating from Dubai. The Customs also raided his house at Kaipamangalam.

FISHING FOR TROUBLE

Violating social distancing norms, people buy fish from a market near Jaydev Vihar during the lockdown in Bhubaneswar on Sunday | BISWANATH SWAIN

EXPRESS READ

Beware of 'free OTT' services on the Internet!

Hyderabad: Cybercriminals have now started creating fake pages in the guise of advertisements and for streaming websites such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and others in order to capture sensitive information of potential customers. These popular services have become prime targets for distributing malware, stealing passwords and launching phishing attacks. It is usually those who attempt to gain access to these websites through unofficial means -- such as websites/apps claiming to grant subscriptions to these streaming websites at discounted prices and so on. These unofficial links often come with malicious programs such as Trojans and so on. For Netflix, India was the third most affected with 7.8 per cent of all such attacks. ENS

Poachers have a free run during lockdown

BOSKY KHANNA@Bengaluru

AFTER solving eight cases of poaching back-to-back since the earlier lockdown was lifted, forest officials at Nagarhole Tiger Reserve have hit a stumbling block, owing to the current lockdown.

Recently, based on a tipoff, the officials raided a house in Veeranahosalli range, only to find the internal organs of a sambar deer. The accused and the owner of the property where the organs were discovered are, however, still at large.

"The incident happened a few days back. Based on the intelligence information gathered, by the time we reached the spot, the poachers had escaped with the poached sambar deer, leaving behind unwanted internal organs like the intestines. The incident has taken place on property whose owner lives in Bengaluru, and now because of the lockdown, nothing much is moving forward," a senior forest department official told *TNIE*.

The official added that they were unable to gather any clues, as the neighbours or others in the vicinity have also closed their doors for information. "We are also unable to establish if the property-owner knew the poachers and was part of the crime, or had unknowingly rented out the place. The case has also gained importance as the accused and property-owner are close associates of a state wildlife board member," the official added.

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve Director Mahesh K said that they were looking at all angles to bring the accused to book. From the tests of the materials and animal body parts left behind, it is confirmed that it was a sambar deer. He added that among the solved cases, most involved hunting of spotted deer and sambar deer, while only one was a case of leopard death. "We are working to spread the message that poachers will not be spared and stern action will be taken," he added.

Police having a hard time shutting places down: MLA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THERE is no point in extending the lockdown because people are anyway not abiding by it. In my own zone, there is economic activity till night and police have a hard time shutting places down. Unless people cooperate with the government, lockdowns will be ineffective and now people are refusing to follow norms," said S R Vishwanath, the CM's Political Secretary who is in charge of Yelahanka zone.

Despite the lack of unanimity, Yediyurappa is steadfast on lifting the lockdown on Wednesday, especially after the construction sector and manufacturing industries have raised concerns over heavy losses.

Covid positivity rate dips to single digit in Chennai

OMJASVIN MD @Chennai

AFTER over two months, the positivity rate in Chennai has slid down to the single-digit mark. After hitting a high of 31.67 per cent on June 15, it has now reached 9.52 per cent. The dip started in the last week of June, when the city corporation ramped up the testing to over 10,000 a day. On Saturday, the civic body tested 12,803 people of which just 1,219 tested positive – positivity rate of 9.52 per cent.

The last time the city reported positivity rate in single digits was on May 15, at 8.52 per cent. The rate could not be brought down since then as the testing rates remained low -- around 5,000 -- and cases surged with the eruption of clusters in Koyambedu and Pulianthope. The thing that worked later was the intense lockdown between June 19 and July 5, which brought down the caseload by a solid 50 per cent. Subsequently, as per the experts' advice, testing, too, was ramped up.

Tondiarpet zone, which once was a hot spot, was the first to reach the single digit active cases mark at 9 percent. Chennai's overall recovery rate is at 81 per cent now, and 10 out of the 15 corporation zones have a recovery rate of more than 80 percent with Tondiarpet being the highest at 89, followed by Royapuram at 87. Experts in the past have highlighted that the city's ward level fever camps also played a role in bringing cases down.

Police personnel check people to prevent any unwanted vehicle movements during the complete lockdown in Coimbatore on Sunday | U RAKESH KUMAR

'Get political leadership hands-on in Covid battle'

BIJAY CHAKI @Bhubaneswar

WITH the Covid-19 situation rapidly becoming serious in Odisha, the Opposition political parties BJP and Congress on Sunday called upon the BJD Government to involve the political leadership from the State-level to the grassroots in the fight against the pandemic without leaving everything in the hands of the bureaucracy.

They also called for taking the Opposition into confidence so as to ensure combined efforts to deal with the emergent situation more effectively and contain the spread of the deadly virus in the State.

The Opposition alleged, ever since the outbreak of the pandemic, political leaders including the ministers and ruling party legislators are missing in action and they have been kept out from the decision making process. Even decisions regarding a particular district or area are taken without consulting the local ministers and people's representatives.

All activities of the ruling BJD were suspended for about three months till Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik convened a virtual meeting of the legislature party in the first week of July to communicate with his own party leaders.

"There was no planning from the beginning. Leaving Ganjam district in the hands of an inexperienced collector where nearly five lakh migrants returned has aggravated the situation," senior BJP leader Bijay Mohapatra said.

'Biggest crisis we are facing'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ASSOCIATION president Mangalchand S Jain, a big name in the toy business in the country, said, "I own two toy shops in the city and have been running my business for the last 40 years and this is the biggest crisis we are facing."

"There is not a single electronic toy manufacturer in the country. We can use this crisis to set up our own modern manufacturing units. But it could take up to two years for it to begin operations," he added.

Nilesh Gurnani, proprietor of Monopoly Marketing shop on Commercial Street and secretary of the association, said that 10 per cent of the toys being bought from other countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Denmark depended on China for their electronic components. "The 20 per cent toys produced in India are purchased by malls or departmental stores. They can replace them with other available products," he felt.

National Urban Health Mission
Bengaluru City Health & Family Welfare Society ®
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officer (PH), Annex Building-2
BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 02

No.: CPMO/NUHM/PR/89/2020-21 Date: 19-07-2020

NOTIFICATION

In the view of COVID-19 outbreak Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is looking for **Swab Collectors posts for 06 months on Contractual Basis** as a part of its effort to tackle the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Qualification Required: B.Sc. in Biology or any Biological Science or any other equivalent Degree.

An honorarium of **Rs.14,000/-** per month will be paid to those selected. Please note that interested candidates can e-mail: **cpmubbmp@gmail.com** their CV along with their preferred Public Health Center within BBMP ward limits to work, on or before **5.00 PM of 21st July, 2020.**

Sd/- Chief Health Officer & Member Secretary,
Bangalore City Health & Family Welfare Society®, BBMP

"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

E-TENDER NOTICE
Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GUJSAIL)
A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking

GUJSAIL Complex, Nr. Torrent SubStation, SVPI Airport Ahmedabad - 380004. Ph. No. 079-22882000/72

Item rate Tender is invited from the experience and registered contractors of R&B Department/AAI for civil work mentioned under through e-tendering process.

Download the document from **www.nprocure.com**

Tender ID No : 417761	Construction of Terminal Building (Porta Cabin) For Water Aerodromes At Various Locations in Gujarat.
24/07/2020	Pre-Bid Meeting at Above office at 12.00 hrs
04/08/2020	Last date for submission of online bids at 18:00 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, THANJAVUR
TENDER NOTICE (ONLINE ONLY)
TENDER NOTICE NO.03/2020-2021/SDO/DATED:18.07.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu, **Schedule / Percentage Tender (Two Cover System)** will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H),Projects Circle, Thanjavur, for the **Construction of Bridge works under CRIDP 2018-19** scheme in respect of **Thanjavur (H) Projects Division up to 11.00 am on 25.08.2020** through online only.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **23.07.2020 - 3.00 pm onwards** in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any Changes / Corrections etc. in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
PROJECTS CIRCLE, THANJAVUR

DIPR/2696/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Tender Notice No. C4 /4749 / 2020 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 17.07.2020

Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukkottai invites Sealed tenders in two cover system from the reputed entities for the following work

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Approximate Value in Lakh	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of Raw material and printed polythene cover for Micronutrient Production Unit	1024.57	10,24,570
2	Transportation of Micronutrient Mixture	43.0	43,000
3	Transportation of Carrier based Biofertilizers and Liquid Biofertilizers	100.0	1,00,000
4	Transportation of raw lignite from M/s. NLC India Ltd. Drying, Pulverizing, Processing of Lignite, Packing and transportation of processed Lignite.	50.0	50,000

Sealed tenders (Technical Bid & Price Bid cover) should be submitted separately for each of the work mentioned above along with specified E.M.D.
Last Date for submission of filled in tender document is **20.08.2020 11.00 A.M.** (Sl.No.1), **2.00 P.M.** (Sl.No.2), **3.00 P.M.** (Sl.No.3), **12.00** noon (Sl.No.4) at this office and tender opening will be **11.30 A.M.** (Sl.No.1), **3.00 P.M.** (Sl.No.2), **4.00 P.M.** (Sl.No.3), **12.30 P.M.** (Sl.No.4)
Tender document can be obtained up to **19.08.2020 5.30 P.M.** in the below address on payment of Rs. 1120/- by via Demand Draft for each tender. The Tender Document may also be obtained at free of cost in Government Website **http://tenders.tn.gov.in**
For Further particulars Contact : **Joint Director of Agriculture, Kattupudukulam, Pudukkottai - 622 001.**
Ph : 04322-221666 email id : jdapdk@gmail.com

DIPR/ 2692 /TENDER/2020 **Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukkottai**

TAMIL NADU ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
4th Floor, LLA Building, No.735 Anna Salai, Chennai-02.
Email: ridc2005@yahoo.co.in Phone No:28520000.

Addendum No.1 dated 18.07.2020 to the REOI Notice No. 2/CPRR/ ADE /2020-2021 dated 19.06.2020

With reference to this office REOI Notice No. 2/CPRR/ ADE / 2020-2021 dated 19.06.2020 for the **Project Management Consultancy Services for Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Section II and III** , it is informed that an addendum, including time extension for the delivery of **EOI proposal till 29.07.2020up to 4.00 P.M** (office clock)is hereby issued. The consolidated reply to the queries and Addendum can be downloaded from the website:**www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in**

Place: Chennai
Date: 18.07.2020 DIPR/2697/TENDER/2020 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TNRIDC.**

National Health Mission
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
1st Floor, DH&FW Services, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009
Land Line : 080-22341985

No: NHM/SPMU/HR/Recruitment-State/Notification/43/2020-21 Date:20-07-2020

Walk-in Interview
for the various posts for COVID-19 under NHM

The Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society invites eligible candidates for **Walk-in interview** for the various posts for COVID-19 under State Surveillance Unit (SSU).The posts are temporary and purely on **contract basis for 6 months**. Eligible candidates can walk-in with their filled-in application along with original documents and one set of photocopy. The document verification and interview for below posts will be on **22.07.2020 from 10:30 AM till 5.00 PM.** Only eligible candidates will be allowed to attend the interview. Venue for the document verification and interview is at Office of Mission Director, National Health Mission, Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru. The format of the application can be downloaded from the department website i.e., **www.karnataka.gov.in/hfw**

Sl. No.	Designation	Number of Posts
1	Senior Grade Specialist	1
2	Senior Resident	2
3	Co-ordinator	1

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM

DIPR/DDU/2020-21

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking, Ministry of Defence)
Regd. Office: 43/46, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata 700 024

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING
NIT NO. SCC/AC/OT(PRESS)/037/VESSEL CONSTRUCTION/ N.ET-1207
SUB: CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO VESSEL WITHIN GRSE PREMISES OR IN AND AROUND KOLKATA & HOWRAH REGION (WEST BENGAL)
Due date: 21 days from date of publication

1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal **https://eprocuregrse.co.in**; Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/** and GRSE website **http://www.grse.in/index.php/tender.html**
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

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THE TAMILNADU CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, T.C.M.P.F. Ltd., Transport Unit,
Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai – 600 051. E-mail ID: aavintpt@gmail.com

Ref: No: 748/T4/Tpt/2020 **TENDER NOTICE** Dt: 17.07.2020

The **TCMPF** Ltd., invite **TWO PART TENDERS** by way of **OFF-LINE / E-SUBMISSION** from the Private tanker providers / contractors for following contract works:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Pre-bid Meeting	Tender Submission	Technical bid Opening
1.	Supply of 288 Nos. of various capacities road milk tankers on hire for transportation of milk From/to Dcmpu Dairies / Chilling Centers / Bulk milk coolers of Tamilnadu / Andhrapradesh / Karnataka / Kerala / Telangana states and other dairies for the period of 3 years (2020-2023).	**07.08.2020 at 11.00 A.M.**	**31.08.2020 at 2.00 P.M.**	**31.08.2020 at 2.30 P.M.**

Document sale between **20.07.2020 to 30.08.2020** from **11.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M.** cost of **Rs.2,000/- + 18% GST** and **Rs.100/-** extra by post. For downloading tender documents, EMD and other details, refer **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and **www.aavinmilk.com** for off line / **www.tntenders.gov.in** for E-submission. Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost.

DIPR/ 2698 /TENDER/2020 **Deputy General Manager (Tpt)**

EDITORIAL

"Let go of the toy; don't cling to it, my father had told me. When we cling to things that do not last—be it toys, favourite foods, special friends or places—we are wasting our lives

Mingyur Rinpoche

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

FOREIGN POLICY TWITTER BARBS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE DEBATE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's critique of the Modi government, blaming foreign policy lapses and a weakened economy for China's aggression, saw External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar defending his turf with all the firepower he could muster. The erudite bureaucrat-turned-foreign minister is not known to be impulsive, but 10 quickfire tweets in response to one with a video clip from Rahul within a few hours had irritation and sarcasm written all over them. It showed the politician in him was in full bloom and highlighted his gift of repartee. It was also typical of the Modi government, wielding a bazooka like Terminator, especially against Rahul, when small arms fire would have served the purpose adequately.

Rahul said the Nepalese are angry; Sri Lankans have given a port to the Chinese; and both Maldives and Bhutan are disturbed. Besides, India's strategic partnerships with major powers have become transactional, he alleged. In response, the minister's punchlines at the end of each tweet bordered on mockery. His one-liners like ask the analysts (better relationships with major powers); ask the media (India speaking its mind more freely on slanted Chinese proposals); ask those who deal with it (understand chronology, Lanka gave Hambantota Port to China during UPA rule); ask households in Bhutan (better security and development ties); ask their citizens (engaging Nepal); ask our security (Bangladesh offering no sanctuary to terror); and ask yourself (Pakistan facing big Indian backlash on terror) in conclusion were delicious.

Yet, it is the same analysts who have shared their worry over the cooling of bilateral relationship with Bangladesh (after CAA, NRC) and plummeting ties with Nepal (boundary dispute). Why, for instance, were we unable to stop Nepal from inserting three disputed territories in Uttarakhand into its map is a genuine question that requires elucidation. A subsequent Nepalese government rolling it back would be near impossible as it has been written into its constitution. On the Sino-Indian stand-off on the Ladakh border, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the other day he cannot guarantee the situation will return to status quo ante through negotiations. How did we reach where we have? It is unfortunate Parliament is not functioning because of the pandemic. A Twitter war is no substitute for Parliamentary debate.

SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

We may soon have private trains in India. Some public sector banks and power corporations could also switch over to private hands in the near future. Privatisation may be the magic pill to solve our problems in many sectors, but it does not seem to be so in the case of healthcare. Thanks to Covid-19, the public healthcare sector is witnessing new, major reforms. Government hospitals are getting a much-needed infrastructural boost. Governments are also capping the cost of Covid testing and treatment at private facilities. This has had a direct impact on the Covid mortality rate in India.

Now, consider the situation in the West. The less the government interferes with the private healthcare sector, the more the Covid damage witnessed. While the cost of Covid testing in the US is around $50-100 on an average, there are cases of people being charged as much as $2,300 just because governments refuse to regulate the prices. The average cost of remdesivir for a typical Covid patient is around $3,100. By comparison, countries that have regulated private healthcare and also possess a robust public healthcare system have done well in the face of the pandemic.

India still has a long way to go. Investing in hospital infrastructure alone will not create a sustainable public health system. Substantial investments are required in research, education and development. Tamil Nadu, for instance, has begun works to construct 11 new medical colleges, which is a step in the right direction. But investing in better salaries for government practitioners and grants for research work are equally important. It is also important to revive India's public sector vaccine production units. As PM Narendra Modi had said, India must work towards self-reliance in every field, including medicine. And that will come only through public-funded institutions built for public good instead of profits.

We could see a situation where there is no demand but prices go up, owing to the inability of firms to cut cost on essentials or other commodities due to shrunken volumes

GETTING REALISTIC ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY

G S VASU

Editor, *The New Indian Express*

AMIT BANDRE

Donald Trump continues to be as dismissive of the economic impact of the coronavirus as he was from the start and sanguine about the future, but the cold fact is, news coming out of the superpower is less than encouraging even if one is an optimist. Contrary to predictions of a sharp economic bounce by the White House, the three big lenders, JP Morgan, Citi and Wells Fargo, together set aside $28 billion this quarter for potential bad loans, a figure last seen during the 2008 financial crisis. In most countries, including India, the belief is that the extent of crisis is still not showing up owing to the massive stimulus that governments across the globe have unveiled in the form of deferments, direct assistance and unemployment aid. Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon was quoted as having said: "This is not a normal recession. We have only staved it off for now by way of stimulus but we are surely going to see the effects down the road."

If the old saying that the world catches a cold when the US sneezes holds good, where India is headed is unclear irrespective of pundits' prophecies on television screens. That our economy will contract during 2020-21 is a given, and forecasts by economists, research and rating agencies range from minus 5% to as high as minus 15%. Our GDP hit the nadir during April and May and any recovery from thereon will only be a plus is also understood, but have businesses pressed the last button in terms of operational measures needed to survive? The answer, going by what we have been witnessing since Unlock 1 from June 1, is NO.

Since April, we have seen companies essentially laying off employees and slashing salaries to bridge the gap between revenue and expenditure. It was their first step. Will that be enough or are further measures required as we get realistic about the state of the economy? Let us look at simple examples. Of the dozens of beauty salons in Hyderabad, two belonging to a leading chain were shut down a few days ago. They were located on a prime commercial road. In terms of revenue, they clocked zero during lockdown but stayed afloat. The decision to close them was taken in the first week of July as the opening up of cities a month earlier has not seen patrons coming back. Hopes dashed, they folded up and sacked their beauticians, who were paid reduced salaries during lockdown. These are the first signs of hitting the bottom in terms of business operations.

Over the next few months, the number of showrooms/outlets in varied sectors—automobile, apparel, restaurants or footwear—is expected to reduce by 25 to 30%, due to subdued demand. In other words, if 10 automobile showrooms in a city were selling 100 cars per month, the reduced demand of say, 60 or 70 cars, would be met by six or seven dealers as the weaker ones will yield space. What does that mean? Jobs lost, commercial space vacated, reduction in power consumption and elimination of a range of ancillary needs. That the overall demand has gone down is coming out through anecdotal evidence as also from the trade figures put out by the government recently. Those in power may have chosen to tout it as an achievement, but the trade surplus (difference between imports and exports), seen for the first time in 18 years, essentially means falling demand, be it gold, fuel or machinery.

> That the overall demand has gone down is coming out through anecdotal evidence as also from the trade figures put out by the government recently. Those in power may have touted it as an achievement but the trade surplus, seen for the first time in 18 years, essentially means falling demand

Is this the first sign of stagflation—increasing inflation coupled with high unemployment and stagnant demand? Remember the non-stop rise in fuel prices and its possible cascading effect. We may, therefore, see a situation where there is no demand but prices go up, owing to the inability of firms to cut cost on essentials or other commodities because of shrunken volumes. It's similar to perhaps what we are seeing in the airline sector. The per sector fare, say between Chennai and Mumbai, has gone up despite the occupancy level hovering around 50-60%. As and when the weaker ones in the sector opt out, businesses would get consolidated among the few that are able to sustain. The next cycle could be when normalcy is restored in terms of economic activity but demand remains suppressed owing to behavioural change, loss or reduced income and uncertainty about the future, prompting people to keep as much cash balance as they could. That is when prices drop until consumers once again see value in investment at lower levels and begin investing, apart from returning to luxury spend, be it foreign travel or branded apparel. That could set off the last leg of recovery where rise in demand leads to enhanced business activity resulting in more showrooms, more flights in the skies, hotels getting back to pre-Covid occupancy levels, etc.

The problem is all this is a long shot. The middle class, which at best has the resilience to last two/three months without a job or reduced salary, is already feeling stressed. Migrants, who were desperate to go home at the height of the pandemic, are trickling back to cities in the absence of gainful employment in their home towns and villages. But if demand does not pick up, whether all of them get their work back is the million-dollar question. A reverse migration then looks plausible given that the farm sector is the only one expected to do well. None of the above scenarios may occur if the global or Indian economy sees a V-shaped recovery. There were such hopes, raised by experts, in the first months of the pandemic. However, the near consensus now appears to be in favour of a U-shaped recovery, which means the pain has to be borne before we witness the bounce. And no one seems to have a clue about the depths to which we could sink before we begin the arduous climb up.

(vasu@newindianexpress.com)

TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS, A MEDIUM TO CONVERSE WITH OUR PAST

MADHUSUDHANAN KALAICHELVAN

Architect, serves on the govt-instituted panel for conservation of temples in TN

The historic past of South India is best understood by listening to the stories that the inscriptions etched on temple walls narrate. They serve as the primary sources of information that help us recreate the past. History, accounting, taxation, politics, traditions, practices, beliefs, law and administration are some of the many topics that we learn from them. What surprises novices and the scholarly alike is the detailing that goes into composing the text of an inscription—the choice of words, accuracy and being as unambiguous as possible.

Of all the dynasties that have ruled the southern part of India, the Cholas are undoubtedly the trendsetters in etching important public documents as inscriptions on temple walls. Their inscriptions are structured and detailed so well that sometimes even a fragmentary one conveys an impressive quantity of information.

The first inscription in discussion is from the Kolaramma Temple situated in Kolar, Karnataka. Kolaramma is the presiding deity of the city. The architectural features of the temple are predominantly Chola with inscriptions ranging from the times of emperor Rajaraja Chola (circa 10th century CE). The shrine is dedicated to Mahishasuramardhini as Kolaramma. Sapta Matrukas, the group of seven goddesses, namely Brahmi, Maheshwari, Kaumari, Varahi, Vaishnavi, Indrani and Chamunda, are also present in the sanctum sanctorum along with Ganesha and Veerabhadra.

However, Kolar is referred to as Kuvalalam and Kolaramma as Pidari in the 12th century CE inscription of Chola ruler Kulothunga I. This inscription, which is in Tamil, simply details the endowment created to offer cooked food to the deities every day. But after the mandatory lines praising the king and his valour, it goes on to introduce Ambalavan Tiruppondaiyar alias Virashikamani Muvendavelar. He is the magistrate deputed to inspect the temple and verify the functioning of the endowments. After a customary evaluation of the temple's affairs, he strikes a conversation with the priests and administrative authorities. Oh, wait, the inscription even refers to the venue of this official discussion! Apparently he met with the priests and officials at the mandapa enclosing the Pidari temple.

The magistrate met the Kannadaga Pandita, the head of the mutt that administered the temple, the administration staff and the priests who conducted the rituals. As this is an official meeting, the conversation is documented in total. Muvendavelar enquires if the temple administration has started receiving revenue from villages that have been declared as offerings to the temple. As the members denied receiving any such revenue by them till that moment, Muvendavelar sets up a committee with two members (their name, official name, native and address are published in full) to get a detailed report about the deities enshrined in the temple and the suggested quantity and type of food to be offered to them every day. The list of deities documented in the inscription include Veerabhadra, Brahmi, Isvari, Vaishnavi, Indrani, Ganapati and Chamundesvari of the sanctum sanctorum, Kalabhairava Mahasasta, Suryadeva, Yogini and Yogesvara. The names of a few goddesses are missing as the inscription is worn out.

The details of food to be offered are also marked individually for each deity. For example, Brahmi, thrice every day, had to be offered a fixed quantity of cooked rice, two dishes of vegetables, two areca nuts and four betel leaves. The list quite interestingly includes *madya panam* or intoxicating drinks to be offered to the Yogini and Yogeshwara exclusively.

(L) Unfinished Hoysala gopuram of the Thiruvellarai temple; A portion of an inscription inside that says how the Pandya ruler's love for Tamil stopped him from razing a Chola pavilion built in honour of Sangam poet Kadiyalur Rudhran Kannanar | PRASANNA R S, TRICHY PARTHIBAN

This long-running inscription should have had such details for each of the deities enshrined in the temple campus. One can certainly not fail to appreciate the meticulous documentation procedure, to make a note of every possible detail.

Another classic example of how inscriptions help us reimagine rare events of the past is the Tamil poem inscribed on the walls of Sri Pundareekaksha Perumal Temple, Thiruvellarai near Tiruchy. This inscription (in picture) describes the military expedition of the Chola country by Maravarman Sundara Pandyan in the year 1219 CE. The army uprooted every single pillar in the land of Cholas but left untouched a 16-pillared pavilion. It was that mandapam built in commemoration of the scholarship of Sangam Tamil poet Kadiyalur Rudhran Kannanar, famous for his classic anthology *Pattinappalai*. Though the said literature venerates Karikala Chola and his performance as an able ruler, the love and respect that the Pandya king had for Tamil and Tamil poets stopped him from razing this mandapam down. This significant incident is recorded only here in this inscription.

These are just a couple of inscriptions from the several lakhs that are waiting to share pieces of information with us. The wealth of details embedded between the fading lines of historic records certainly leaves the reader with a sense of having peeped into the past. Next time you see an inscription, try and listen to its whisper. It, am sure, has a story to share.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Good move by HAL

It is nice to note that the HAL created a 160-bed corona care centre and handed it over to the Bengaluru municipality. It is a laudable gesture from the PSU. It is also great that the HAL has provided quarantine facilities at its various branches. I hope other organisations do their bit in fighting the virus.
V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Not the time for exams

The UGC's stubbornness over holding final year exams for colleges while the country is reeling under the weight of the pandemic needs to be revisited. Exams are only a means, not an end.
Raveendranath A, Aranmula

Don't allow devotees for now

It has been reported that about 140 Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam employees, including priests, have tested positive for Covid-19. The temple management should immediately stop allowing devotees for darshan, or things may go out of control.
S Ravindranath, Bengaluru

Decision to open hasty

With so many staff testing positive, it is prudent to close the temple for now. In hindsight, the decision to open, even with restrictions, appears hasty. People visiting from all over India are responsible for the virus spread among staff.
Hemantha Bhide, Mangaluru

Syllabus reduction

This is with reference to *Covid another tool of power* (July 19). I beg to differ. Yes, as the first PM, Jawaharlal Nehru enjoyed unbridled power. But the current government using its 'power' to reduce the syllabus temporarily to help students is something to be thankful about.
Hari Raghavan, email

Not misuse of power

Democracy cannot be perfect, which means that political leaders are not saints. A few are bound to use power to their advantage. However, reducing the academic syllabus in unprecedented times is certainly not misuse of power.
A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Loyalty to the family

While the Congress has a history of young leaders, it also believes in shunting them out when they get too big for their boots (*Cong has history of young CMs, all began politics from ground*, July 19). The only exceptions are leaders from the Gandhi family. In the power struggle, it is the veterans who triumph due to their loyalty to the Gandhis.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Don't forget A K Antony

In the list of young Congress CMs, A K Antony's name was not there. He became the youngest CM of Kerala, being 37 years old when he took over the role in 1977.
N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Annual havoc in Assam

It is disheartening to see the havoc caused by the floods in Assam, with enormous damage to human lives as well as crops and property. This is turning into an annual feature.
R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

What's wrong with Trump?

Even when the death toll due to Covid-19 has crossed the 1,00,000-mark in the US, eccentric President Donald Trump is standing his ground and not ordering Americans to wear face masks. His argument is that masks may infringe on the freedom of an individual. People can only enjoy their freedom if they survive.
Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
BJP has institutionalised lies — Covid19 by restricting testing, misreporting deaths, GDP by using a new calculation method.

Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot
IMy thoughts & prayers with all those families affected by the Assam & Bihar floods.

Umar Khalid @UmarKhalidJNU
The revolutionary land of Guru Nanak Devji demands release of Dr Kafeel Khan and all political prisoners

'Why afraid of giving voice samples?'

Citing audio clips, Congress demands Shekhawat to come forward and prove his innocence

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Congress on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to topple the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan.

Citing the two audio clips, in one of which Shekhawat is allegedly heard during a conversation on a plot to bring down the state government, Congress leader Ajay Maken said the BJP leader should quit on moral grounds.

"If Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is claiming that it is not his voice and the reference in the audio clip is of some other Gajendra Singh, then why is he afraid of giving his voice samples," Maken asked.

He said the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the state police has registered a case in connection with the audio tapes against Congress MLA Bhanwarlal Sharma, Shekhawat and one Sanjay Jain. He said Shekhawat has no moral authority to continue as a Union minister and should resign so that the investigation is not influenced. Maken also alleged that the police in Haryana and Delhi are giving protection to the rebel Congress MLAs from Rajasthan. He said the Centre is threatening in the name of the CBI because it wants to stop the probe into the conspiracy.

The former Union minister also asked why a team of the Rajasthan Police was 'stopped by Haryana Police' to carry out its investigation and take voice samples of MLAs Bhanwarlal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh.

If the BJP has no role in it, then why the MLAs took shelter in the party-ruled Haryana, he asked in a apparent reference to the 19 Congress MLAs' stay at a hotel in Gurgaon. On charges of horse-trading, Maken asked the BJP to 'reveal the route of black money' as it is being said that ₹30-35 crore were offered to each MLA.

Maken, who arrived in Jaipur as a Congress observer, said it is the betrayal of people's mandate and the murder of democracy if an elected government is toppled with money power. If such attempts are not stopped, then people will lose faith over the voting process and democracy, he added.

Meanwhile, CM Ashok Gehlot met up with Governor Kalraj Mishra late on Saturday and handed him a letter confirming that two MLAs of the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) are backing his government.

> **If Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is claiming that it is not his voice and the reference in the audio clip is of some other, then why is he afraid of giving voice samples**
> Ajay Maken, Congress leader

DELHI BENT THE COVID CURVE ONLY AFTER SHAH STEPPED IN

H KHOGEN SINGH
Resident Editor, New Delhi
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Just about a month back, Delhi seemed to be staring at a Covid-19 crisis. There were more than 25,000 active cases, the city was adding about 2,200 new cases a day and hospital beds were in short supply.

Today, active cases are just over 17,000, the number of daily fresh cases is around 1,400 and there are adequate hospital beds, so much so that a 10,000-bed Covid care facility for institutional quarantine patients is almost empty.

Whether Delhi has flattened the Covid curve for good only time will tell. But there is no longer a crisis-like situation. So how has this turnaround happened?

It is worth recalling that in mid-June, the central government led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah stepped into the picture. Days earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had projected bleak days ahead. He said the number of confirmed cases in Delhi would go up to 5.5 lakh by the end of July.

Shah called a series of meetings between the Centre and the Delhi government. Together they decided to ramp up testing and increase hospital and Covid care beds. Shah visited the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital and ordered installation of CCTV cameras as there were widespread complaints from patients. Within days, the first signs of the seemingly runaway disease being brought under control were visible.

> **Shah called a series of meetings between the Centre and the Delhi govt. Together they decided to ramp up testing and increase hospital and Covid care beds. Shah visited the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital and ordered installation of CCTV cameras as there were widespread complaints.**

There is no doubt that both the Centre and the Delhi government have to be credited with the turnaround. Both have worked in tandem so far. But there can be no denying that the rising Covid graph was arrested only after Shah took charge. Until then, the scenario was scary and the Arvind Kejriwal government had clearly come up short.

What does the public think of how the disease was handled? If a survey were to be conducted today, they would still be happy with the Kejriwal government. In fact, they would perhaps give him full marks.

In a way, Kejriwal can be called a Teflon chief minister. No matter what his failings, the people of Delhi still rate him highly. But except education and health, his government does not have much to boast about. This was borne out on Sunday when the city witnessed this monsoon's first heavy rainfall.

A man died of drowning and at least one house in a slum area collapsed. There was also widespread water logging. The Delhi government, perhaps preoccupied by the coronavirus pandemic, had clearly not done any desilting. In many parts of the city the roads are in a mess. There has hardly been any infrastructure spending.

Yet, Kejriwal will remain a popular figure. For this, the blame squarely lies with his opponents. Both the BJP and the Congress have such persons who are heading it currently that the people of Delhi cannot be blamed if they ask: Adesh Gupta who, or Anil Chaudhury who?

Many are of the view that when they don't have the capacity to carry along their own leaders, they can hardly be expected to lead the city and its denizens. Arvind Kejriwal, in the meantime, can smile and not have to look over his shoulders for any potential threat.

ENCOURAGING

India's virus recovery rate now 62.86%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE number of recovered Covid-19 patients exceeds India's active caseload by 3,04,043 as on Sunday with 6.77 lakh people having recuperated from the disease so far, the Union Health Ministry said.

There has been a "sharp increase" of 23,672 Covid-19 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the highest in a day, according to the ministry's updated data updated at 8 AM.

"The total number of recovered cases is 6,77,422. The recovery rate as of now is at 62.86 per cent," the ministry said.

India's Covid-19 case fatality rate is "progressively falling" and is currently at'2.49 per cent, which is one of the lowest in the world, the ministry said on Sunday, crediting efficient clinical management of hospitalised cases for it. Proactive measures like aggressive testing and timely diagnosis of the central, state and union territory governments have helped in detecting cases early.

"Effective clinical management of the moderate and severe cases through a well executed standard of care protocol has ensured high rate of recovery among the Covid patients," the ministry said.

Medical attention is being provided to all the 3,73,379 active cases, in hospitals and home isolation.

The country's testing infrastructure has been substantially ramped up.

With agency inputs

EXPRESS READ

Antony's son is Cong social media head

New Delhi: Ex-defence minister and Congress working committee member AK Antony's son Anil K Antony has been made the national co-coordinator of party's social media department. A graduate of Stanford University, US and College of Engineering, Trivandrum, Anil has been convenor of the grand old party's digital media cell in Kerala.

Covid bares all that is wrong with drug regulation in India

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

OFTEN accused of unduly favouring drug-makers, India's drug regulatory system is under glare in the wake of Covid pandemic with three drugs getting the nod as its potential cure despite little scientific evidence of their safety and efficacy.

While two drugs got authorisation for emergency use by the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the third — an ayurvedic formulation — got the nod from the AYUSH Ministry.

For treatment of mild to moderate Covid cases, Favipiravir got the nod for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Favipiravir is manufactured by Fujifilm and is in use in Japan since 2014. In India, Glenmark got the license to manufacture the drug. The evidence cited for the EUA was rather weak — an observational trial, without any comparison with a placebo arm, with 160 patients in 10 hospitals which showed that patients with mild symptoms showed some improvement.

Similarly, immuno-modulator Itolizumab, which was launched by Biocon for psoriasis in 2013, got the approval for repurposed use in moderate to severe Covid cases to manage cytokine storms. In this case too, researchers express concern over its low-powered, small clinical trial regarding its efficacy in Covid medication. The drug maker was also exempted from phase 3 clinical trial, considered bedrock of scientific evidence for any medical therapy, clearing the way directly for phase 4 or post marketing assessment.

Drug Controller General V G Somani, who heads the CDSCO, did not respond to requests seeking clarification on issues related to the approvals.

Even Patanjali allegedly had a similar cakewalk as it got permission to sell Coronil. A group of doctors and researchers had written to the Medical Council of India highlighting how the purported clinical trial undertaken to assess Coronil's efficacy grossly violated trials norms. Those who closely follow India's drug regulation scenario say that CDSCO's 'chequered' past and present is a concern. "History informs us that CDSCO makes its decision based on every other factor except sound science and is opaque about how it arrives at its decisions," said activist Dinesh Thakur, who blew the lid off Ranbaxy's dubious manufacturing practices. "It has been called out by the parliamentary standing committee on health for collusion, corruption and gross incompetence. There seems to be no accountability for its questionable function." Public health researcher Dr Oommen John stressed that the approvals for use of pharmaceutical agents for new indications like Covid need to be based on sound evidence. "If the studies are not adequately powered, there is a risk of harm that can be multiplied at scale given the direction the pandemic is moving."

One major problem is a near-complete lack of transparency in the way the drug regulator functions. The agency, for instance, does not make public the approval details or composition of the committees behind approvals. It was only after persuasion by All India Drug Action Network that CDSCO released minutes of the meeting of the expert committee that is approving Covid drugs, but a request to reveal the name of the members remains unheeded so far.

A medic plays with a child patient at CWG Village Covid Care Centre in New Delhi | PTI

HOW A DRUG IN INDIA IS APPROVED

- When a company in India wants to manufacture or import a new drug it has to apply to seek permission from the licensing authority or the Drug Controller of India by filling in Form 44 also submit required data as prescribed in Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and its rules.
- In order to prove its efficacy and safety in Indian population it has to conduct clinical trials in accordance with the guidelines specified in Schedule Y and submit the report of such clinical trials in the specified format

STAGES OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Pre-clinical study - Mice, Rat, Rabbit, Monkeys

Phase 1
Human pharmacology trial - estimation of safety and tolerability

Phase 2
Exploratory trial - estimation of effectiveness and short-term side effects

Phase 3
Confirmatory trial - Confirmation of therapeutic benefits

Phase 4
Post marketing trial - Studies done after drug approval

EVOLVE

Rlys set to go corporate for boosting trade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Indian Railways, in a bid to improve its business, is all set to adopt a corporate style of functioning.

In a letter to all general managers of zonal railways, the railway board urged all zones to set up business development units and said it will review the progress made by these units at regular intervals. The units have been created with an aim to double freight businesses by 2024.

"A dashboard is also being developed to track the action taken on a continuous basis. Action taken by the units and the progress made i.e. new traffic streams identified/developed and action taken to realise the potential of such traffic streams, needs to be prepared by zones and shared with nodal officer in Railway Board on a regular basis," the letter stated.

According to the letter, the business plans will be on the lines of corporate house and help boost marketing teams. "Each division will have its own marketing plan and the zonal plan should be a symbiotic combination of these divisional plans to target more than the sum total of individual parts," the letter stated and mandated a SWOT analysis for each plan, a "The strategies should be sum of smaller commodity-wise plans/strategies for affecting modal shift as well as increasing volumes," the letter added.

'Modi govt creating myth through media on Chinese intrusion'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWO days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi raised questions on Indian foreign policy, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged that the government is creating myth on Chinese transgression through media and the Chinese have still occupied the Indian territory at Depsang Plains and Pangong Tso and still building additional army deployment, which is indicative of an impending danger.

Addressing a press conference, Surjewala asked, "What is the meaning of Defence Minister's statement that there is no guarantee of resolving the issue through talks and has the government accepted that it can't resolve the issue?"

The Congress wanted to know from the government, "in how many days status quo ante of prior to May 5 will be restored and what is the government policy on it?" "Is China involved in construction at Daulat Beg Oldi and Depsang? What is the government doing about it? Has China occupied Finger 4 to 8 at Pangong Tso lake area?" Surjewala questioned. He said, Chinese occupation on Indian land is unacceptable and there would be no compromise on territorial integrity and national security.

"Congress party and the citizens of the country have said repeatedly that it is with the Armed Forces and the government on this issue, but it's regrettable that the government and the PM is creating confusion through media on Chinese incursions and not even bothering to restore status quo ante", alleged Surjewala.

The leader said that the confusion spread by the government is neither "service to the nation nor it's patriotism." Surjewala posted facts in favour of his argument.

He said, that the Prime Minister during the all party meet on June 19 had said that no body has entered our territory nor our any post has been occupied, but on June 26 Indian Ambassador to China said that he hoped it will recede towards the LAC.

With agency inputs

Jaishankar can't be in denial of foreign policy's failure: Cong

NEW DELHI: Hitting out at External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma Sunday said he cannot be in denial of the failures of foreign policy and should answer them instead.

A day after Jaishankar defended country's foreign policy, Anand said, "Rhetoric and tweets do not change ground reality. Neighbourhood first has been a priority of India's foreign policy but sadly derailed by a cavalier approach."

"India and Nepal have historically shared a relationship bases on trust, friendship, and mutual respect. The present drift and tension are a matter of national concern. Foreign Minister cannot have the luxury of denial but should answer for the failures," he tweeted.

The Foreign minister had Friday attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandi, who criticised the government over poor handing of foreign affairs. "Dr Jaishankar's reference to Mumbai terror attack was oddly out of place. As India's Ambassador and senior diplomat, he was articulating India's position which, for political expediency, he has chosen to criticise and disown," Sharma said. *ENS*

Rlys generates 1.5L man-days of work for migrants returnees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE railways has generated over 1.5 lakh man-days of works for migrant workers in four weeks under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan with a total of ₹608-crore being paid to them.

According to the national transporter, Bihar tops the list with over 60,000 man-days of work with an estimated spending of ₹204.81 crore followed by Uttar Pradesh which has generated over 52,000 man-days of work at a cost of ₹246 crore. Other states which have generated man-days of work for migrant labourers include Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha with 32,379, 10,458 and 1,147 man-days of work at a cost of ₹70.87 crore, ₹43.49 crore and ₹40.38 crore, respectively.

"The states were selected based on the number of migrant workers who had returned home through Shramik Special trains, which the railways has been operating since May 1," an official said. A total of over 6L stranded migrants had returned home through these trains. The national transporter has also identified 160 infrastructure developments works under the PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June and is currently operational in 116 districts across six states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

The works under the PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana are related to the construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings, development and cleaning of silted waterways along the track. They also include construction and maintenance of approach roads to railway stations and plantations at the boundaries of railway land.

Railway Board chairman VK Yadav, in a press briefing earlier, said that the national transporter will generate over 8.6 lakh man-days while spending an estimated ₹1800 crore under the scheme by the end of October.

BUSES SET ABLAZE
Violence erupted in West Bengal's North Dinajpur after the body of a teenage girl was recovered on Sunday. Alleging she was raped and murdered, locals set three government buses and one police vehicle ablaze.

3 LYNCHED BY A MOB IN ASSAM'S KARIMGANJ DISTRICT

Ahmedabad	36	26	Mumbai	32	25
Bhopal	34	26	Panaji	30	24
Jaipur	38	29	Patna	32	28
Amritsar	32	22	Lucknow	32	27
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	32	25
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	32	20	Chandigarh	33	25

Modi assures all help to flood-hit Assam

Prime Minister also called up chief ministers of six other states to take stock of flood, coronavirus situation

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal on way to Madanabari village for assessing the flood situation in Morigaon on Sunday | PTI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called up Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to express his concern and solidarity with the people of the state where 110 people have died due to flood and landslides. The call was part of a series of calls made by the PM to the chief ministers of seven states to discuss the coronavirus and flood situations in their states.

In his call with Sonowal, PM Modi also took stock of the pandemic and Baghjan Oil Well fire scenario in Assam. According to an official statement, PM enquired about the steps taken by the state government for relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people and treatment of Covid-19 positive patients. Sonowal apprised Modi that the state government had taken steps for providing shelter to the marooned and that the Covid-19 protocols were strictly being adhered to.

According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), five people perished on Sunday in Barpeta, Baksa, Dhubri, Morigaon and Nagaon districts. The total number of people losing their lives in flood and landslides in Assam this year is 110. While 84 died in flood-related incidents, landslides claimed 26 lives. The ASDMA said over 25.29 lakh people from 2,400 villages and localities across 24 of the state's 33 districts were reeling under the flood. Altogether, 50,559 of the marooned were taking refuge in 521 relief camps.

PM Modi, talking to Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, enquried about ongoing treatment of 17 Indian Army personnel who were found Covid 19 positive on Saturday.

"The honorable Prime Minister was apprised about treatment provided to our brave Indian Army men and discussed overall Covid situation in the state with the CM assuring every help," said Madan Kaushik, state cabinet minister.

On Saturday, total 174 positive cases surfaced in the state taking total count of Covid patients to 4276. The government to check the spread has already imposed weekend lockdown in four worst affected districts-Dehradun, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar starting Saturday.

PM Modi also dialled the chief ministers of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. Bihar is also struglling due to heavy rains and floods. All of these states have been witnessing a surge in coronavirus cases recently. While Tamil Nadu is among the worst-hit states in the country, Assam, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have seen massive growth lately.

With inputs from Vineet Upadhyaya, Dehradun

Woman cop with spunk stresses CM's link with drug mafia

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

MANIPUR'S decorated lady police officer Thounaojam Brinda has stuck to her guns, reiterating that the drug business in the state thrives thanks to alleged support and involvement of a combined force of politicians, militants, drug lords and officials.

In an affidavit filed in the Manipur High Court last week, she had alleged that Chief Minister N Biren Singh had "pressured" her to let off an arrested drug lord. She lamented that she was targeted by the government even though she had put in her best effort to fight the menace.

"The drug business – smuggling and production – in Manipur is run by a combined force of powerful politicians, militants, drug lords, top police officials and bureaucrats who manipulate the police administration and judicial institutions to cover up crimes and escape punishment," the 2012 batch Manipur Police Service officer told this newspaper.

Brinda is facing a criminal contempt case for allegedly showing her "middle finger" to the special judge of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ND&PS) Act – a charge that she already refuted – and for her remarks on Facebook allegedly undermining the judiciary after drug lord Lhukhosei Zou was granted three-week bail by the ND&PS court.

Brinda, serving as Additional SP of Narcotics and Affairs of Border Bureau (NAB), and her team had arrested Zou and seven others in June 2018 and seized 4.595 kg of heroin, 2,80,200 "World is Yours" tablets, Rs 57.18 lakh cash etc. Zou, a BJP leader, was then the chairman of Autonomous District Council, Chandel.

According to Brinda, she had dutifully supervised the investigation and resisted challenges to bring the case to the court with the hope that justice would be delivered. However, "they" (government) transferred the former Special Public Prosecutor, and Officer-in-Charge, NAB. She too was transferred without an assigned duty.

She has concluded that the present approach towards solving the menace of drug abuse was never going to work.

"I believe there will be an inevitable catastrophe to the future of our children. I have to give everything I can to prevent this. But, people should be truly informed because we need informed public opinion and participation for a solution."

After studying at a convent school, Brinda graduated in Zoology honours. She is also a law graduate and practised law before joining the police. She is also trained in permaculture.

A mother of four, she wants to ensure a better future for the children of Manipur.

"I love Manipur and want to see her present and future glow brighter. How can we do that without healthy youth and children? Only the collective voice of mothers can save the children," said Brinda.

She said from what she observed, studied, and experienced, the genesis of the problem was recruitment and training. She said people have lost their trust in the force and do not view cops as good people who would serve and protect.

"Manipur Police is one of the most militarised polices. People don't expect see 'civil' behaviour of being friendly and helpful from them. They have a brutal past with a series of fake encounters as listed by the Supreme Court," she said.

Thounaojam Brinda is a recipient of the Gallantry Medal and CM's Commendation Certificate | EXPRESS

The police are executives. They implement law into action. "But how can lower officers function independently when there are pressures from above," she asked.

She lay thrust on police reforms to keep pace with changing circumstances but added the reforms require good and committed persons in the legislative power. Stating that serving people is the motto of every cop, she said that the struggle must go on despite all hurdles.

Asked about her goal, Brinda said: "I want to save my people. I want to protect the ecology and promote humanity, leave a better society for the children. My spirit has always been for Manipur. I have been doing everything I can and will for the land and its people".

Varavara Rao admitted to private hospital

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

POET and activist Varavara Rao was shifted to a private super speciality hospital for neurological and urological medical treatment on Sunday. Dr Akash Khobragade, superintendent of Saint George hospital, said that Rao was brought to the hospital for Covid treatment.

"His health is stable, but he needed neurological and urological treatment. Therefore, he was shifted to Nanavati hospital," said Khobragade.

The veteran activist, an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, has not been keeping well for some time. His family had said that he was being held in terrible conditions at a state hospital.

A doctor at Nanavati hospital said that Rao had a head injury when he was brought to the facility. "The head injury shows that Rao must have fallen off the cot. His sodium levels are too low. We have put him on BiPAP which helps (the patient) to exhale. He has been given oxygen and admitted to an ICU ward," the doctor said.

Rao's health is fragile but not very critical and as such not put on ventilator, the doctor added. "We are closely monitoring his health round-the-clock. If needed, he may be kept on ventilator as well. His health is fragile. We are trying to give him the best healthcare."

Recently, the National Human Right Commission had stepped and ordered that Rao be moved to a private facility for treatment. It has also asked the government to submit his medical report regularly.

Atmanirbhar: BJP looks beyond Scindia loyalists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THE Bharatiya Janata Party recently added two more Congress MLAs to its ranks in Madhya Pradesh. The addition of these two non-Scindia loyalist legislators and possibility of more such leaders joining the saffron camp could be BJP's well thought strategy to reduce excessive dependence on Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia and become atmanirbhar (self-dependent) in state.

Congress MLAs, Pradyuman Singh Lodhi and Sumitra Devi Kasdekar, quit their assembly membership and joined the BJP last week. According to sources, 4 to 6 more Congress MLAs could follow Lodhi and Kasdekar in the coming weeks. Both Lodhi and Kasdekar are not from the Scindia camp.

So far, 24 Congress MLAs have switched over to the BJP after quitting the Vidhan Sabha and Congress, out of which 19 are Scindia loyalists.

According to informed political sources, the BJP's game plan is to slowly reduce its dependence on Scindia supporters. If 4-6 more such MLAs join the BJP after quitting Vidhan Sabha, by-elections will have to be held on 30-plus seats. While Congress will have to win all the seats in by-polls to return to power, BJP will need just nine more seats for simple majority of 116, in the full strength 230-member Vidhan Sabha.

With two BSP MLAs, one expelled SP MLA and at least two out of four independents backing the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, the BJP already has a comfort cushion of five allies who will back it till it's in power.

"While 19 Scindia loyalists will contest these by-polls, five will be fought by other former Cong MLAs. BJP will also field its core candidates on two seats. If our seven non-Scindia loyalist candidates win, not only we will near majority on our own, but will become Atmanirbhar," a senior BJP leader said.

Another BJP leader pointed out the growing restlessness in the party over the virtual surrender to Scindia during the recent second cabinet expansion and allocation of portfolios. He said there was an urgent need to become self-dependent with help of non-Scindia loyalist MLAs.

'No need to panic over Covid spread in Bengal'

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

AMID acute scarcity of beds both in government and private hospitals, the West Bengal government urged the people not to panic because only 4 per cent of Covid-19 patients are suffering from serious illness. Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha said the scenario was not alarming in the state and there was no requirement to impose strict lockdown norms in large parts, other than containment zones. Sinha's assurance came at a time when the state health department and hospitals are flooded with requests for beds for infected patients.

> Asymptomatic patients can stay at home if they have facilities to quarantine themselves instead of rushing to hospitals
>
> Rajiva Sinha, Chief Secretary, WB

"Only more than 650 people who tested positive for Covid-19 in the state, are in critical condition presently," said chief secretary Rajiva Sinha. He also said that 72% of the infected people are asymptomatic, while 13% are with mild symptoms and 11% with moderate symptoms.

"Only 4% of the patients are suffering from serious illness," Sinha said, adding, "There is no reason to be panicky. The asymptomatic patients can stay at home if they have facilities to quarantine themselves. Otherwise, they can avail the facility of staying at homes set up by the state government, instead of rushing to hospitals."

According to a sources in the state health department, many patients are refusing to leave hospitals even after becoming asymptomatic. "We are suggesting them to return home and quarantine themselves for two weeks. But they are refusing saying they will leave only after their third test report comes negative," said an official.

BJP, however, refused to accept Sinha's assurance. "People have and died at their homes after not getting beds at hospitals. When the state is witnessing steep rise in positive cases every day, the assurance is to mislead the people," said Dilip Ghosh, state BJP president.

THE BIG BUST

BSF seized 64.3 kilograms of heroin near Pakistan border on Sunday morning

The consignment was camouflaged as aquatic weeds to avoid detection

The heroin is said to be worth around ₹300 crore in the international market

Dalit row: Arrest cops or face war, Mevani to MP govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

Mob beats man over suspicion of pesticide theft

Police are probing the brutal beating of a man over suspicion of pesticide theft at the Galla Mandi in Guna district. The incident had come to light after a video went viral over social media on Saturday.

GUJARAT MLA and Dalit rights activist Jignesh Mevani has demanded the arrested of policemen who allegedly beat a couple and their kin in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh. Mevani visited Guna on Saturday and met the Dalit couple at the hospital. Later, Mevani announced that he will wage a war against the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government if the culprit cops were not arrested within 24 hours.

Six cops, including a sub inspector, have been suspended over the July 14 incident. A magisterial probe headed by SDM SL Yadav has been ordered into entire episode. The collector and SP of Guna district and IG-Gwalior have been removed from their posts by the MP government.

"We demand that all the culprit cops not only be suspended in the matter, but booked under provisions of SC/ST Atrocities Act and arrested," said Mevani.

"If there is no action in the next 24 hours, we will call upon all farmers and Dalits to proceed towards MP to teach lesson to the Chouhan government," threatened Mevani.

"The MP CM has not visited the victims yet. We're giving him 24 hours to come and meet the family and initiate the action demanded by us against the culprit cops. If that doesn't happen, it would prove very costly to the government."

Meanwhile, Akash Baglekar -- a fourth year law student at the University College of Law, Osmania University, Hyderabad -- has written to the National Human Rights Commission to take cognisance of the entire episode and requested an enquiry.

Ramkumar and Savitri Bai had consumed pesticide after failing to prevent a government team from crushing their crop. The local administration has claimed that the land belonged to government and was encroached by a land mafia and rented to the family.

3 jailed activists test positive for Covid-19

Three jailed activists – **Akhil Gogoi**, Bitu Sonowal and Dharjya Konwar – tested positive for Covid-19 at the Central Jail in Guwahati and were subsequently shifted to a hospital for treatment. Gogoi and Sonowal are the leaders of the peasants' body Krishak Mukti Sangram Samitee (KMSS) while Konwar is a leader of KMSS's student wing Chhatra Mukti Sangram Samiti (SMSS). The trio were arrested by the NIA in the wake of violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December last year and booked under UAPA. Sonowal and Konwar have been granted bail by an NIA court and will be released after treatment.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
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GUWAHATI DIARY

Developing biofuels from non-edible seeds

A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati), led by Dr. Kaustubha Mohanty, professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, has developed methods to produce biofuels from non-edible seeds. An IIT-Guwahati statement said there have been worldwide attempts to produce fuel from renewable biological resources to overcome future oil shortages in the world. Plants and trees found in India, such as Peela Kaner, Mahua, Gulmohar, Neem, rain tree, castor, Kusum, etc, produce seeds that have oil from which biofuels can be made. Dr. Mohanty and his research team use a heat-chemical route to produce biofuels from these and other such seeds that they painstakingly collect from various parts of the country.

Guwahati 'unlocks' after 3-week lockdown

Guwahati residents heaved a sigh of relief as the Assam government announced certain relaxations after a three-week-lock lockdown that was enforced on June 28. The city recorded around 400-500 cases every day during the lockdown. The government has allowed all shops and business establishments – except malls, street and footpath vending – to operate. However, they will open on alternative basis. The shops on one side of a street will operate on one day while the ones on the other side will operate the next day.

City gets electric crematorium

Guwahati has got its first electric crematorium, constructed at RK Mission Road in the Ulubari area at a cost of Rs.5.09 crore. It was inaugurated by Guwahati Development Department Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharyya. According to the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, this is the first electric crematorium in the city with modern-day crematorium facilities. The crematorium has two floors and the plinth of each is 526 sq mtrs. It has two electric furnaces. It has advanced pollution control devices like effluent treatment plants along with a chimney for a clean and hygienic atmosphere.

1.3 mn

new claims for unemployment benefits in the US last week, barely changed from the week prior

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	31	22 SNY	Los Angeles	24	15 SNY
Colombo	31	25 TDS	Melbourne	14	9 LR
Doha	42	30 SNY	Moscow	21	11 LR
Dubai	43	33 SNY	New York	28	21 LC
Houston	33	23 LC	Singapore	30	25 TDS
Istanbul	28	19 SNY	Toronto	26	16 TDS
London	25	15 LC	Washington DC	33	25 TDS

Many polls in recent weeks have shown Democratic candidate Joe Biden taking a sharp lead over Donald Trump, who calls these polls "fake" | AFP

Don unsure if he'll accept poll results

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it's too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on *Fox News* on Sunday.

"No, I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time either," he said.

It is remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy's electoral process. But for Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton, he said he would not commit to honouring the election results if the Democrat won.

"First of all, I'm not losing, because those are fake polls," Trump said in the taped interview, which aired Sunday.

> Under his (Biden) leadership, he would help shape international institutions like the UN to give India a (permanent) seat on the Security Council
>
> Richard Verma, former US envoy to India

Biden leads by 15 points

More good news for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. According to the latest *ABC News/Washington Post* poll out on Sunday, he has opened up a 15 point lead over Trump in the race for Oval Office.

Biden leads Trump 55-40% among registered voters. However, the former Vice President's lead comes down to 54-44% among those are likely to actually go out and vote. *Agencies*

Global toll 6 lakh, new cases at record high

Covid-19 continues to surge across the globe with 13 lakh fresh cases last week; Saturday alone saw 2.6 new cases

WASHINGTON

The coronavirus pandemic has found fresh legs around the world, as confirmed deaths pass 6,00,000 and countries from the US to South Africa to India struggle to contain a surge of new infections. Hong Kong issued tougher new rules on wearing face masks, Spain closed overcrowded beaches and Germany reported another outbreak at a slaughterhouse.

The World Health Organization said that 2,59,848 new infections were reported Saturday, its highest one-day tally yet. While the US leads global infections, South Africa now ranks as the fifth worst-hit country in the pandemic with more than 350,000 cases, or around half of all those confirmed on the continent. Its struggles are a sign of trouble to come for nations with even fewer health care resources.

A medical worker takes a swab from a woman at a medical facility in Moscow | AP

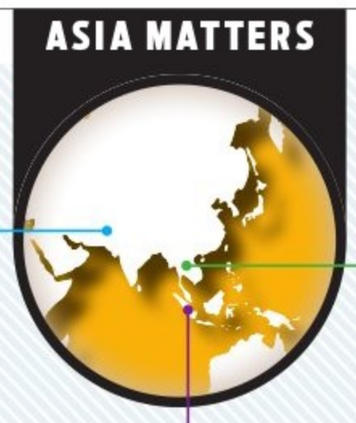
Confirmed global virus deaths risen to nearly 603,000, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins. The United States tops the list with over 140,000, followed by more than 78,000 in Brazil.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.2 million, with 3.7 million in the United States and more than 2 million in Brazil. There have been 1.3 million new cases in the past week alone. Experts believe the pandemic's true toll around the world is much higher because of testing shortages and data collection issues. The

Infections have been soaring in US states such as Florida, Texas, Arizona, with many blaming a haphazard, partisan approach to lifting lockdowns as well as the resistance of some Americans to wearing masks. Following a recent surge in cases, Hong Kong made the wearing of masks mandatory in all public places and told non-essential civil servants to work from home. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said the situation in the Asian financial hub is "really critical" and that she sees "no sign" that it's under control.

Pope Francis said "the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping" and urged compassion for those whose suffering during the outbreak. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS



PAKISTAN

Seven members of Imran's cabinet dual nationals or PR holders

At least seven members of Prime Minister Imran Khan' Cabinet are either dual nationals or hold another country's permanent residency, according to the details issued by the government amid growing demands by the Opposition to disclose assets and nationalities of non-elected members. All dual nationals were non-elected and working as special assistants to the prime minister, also called as SAPM. The move comes in response to growing criticism of the government and calls for declaring assets of the people close to the prime minister. When Khan was in the Opposition, he had criticised foreign nationals holding public offices.

THAILAND

Foreigners not welcome

Close to 95% Thais say foreigners should be barred from entering the country in order to prevent a second wave of Covid-19. Thailand is one of the few countries that have reported a high degree of success in containing Covid-19. The country has so far recorded only about 3,200 cases. Widespread use of face masks and social distancing measures have taken the credit.

BANGLADESH

Public shun virus testing after fake screening scandal

The number of people being tested for coronavirus in Bangladesh has fallen by almost half, officials said Sunday, in the wake of a huge screening scandal. The number of tests carried out daily has fallen from about 18,000 in late June to just over 10,000 in the past two weeks, the health department said. The huge drop followed the arrest of more than a dozen people, including a Dhaka hospital owner, on charges they issued fake certificates to thousands of patients saying they were virus-free without testing them. "The panic among the people has gone," a health department spokeswoman told AFP about the lower testing figures.

EU virus recovery meet struggles to find accord

BRUSSELS

An EU summit to agree a huge coronavirus economic rescue package was at risk of collapse without a deal on Sunday as bickering leaders struggled to find compromises on a third day of talks.

The 27 leaders have argued for more than two days over the scale and rules for the package, with the Netherlands leading a band of "frugal" allies in demanding lower budgets and tougher conditions for handouts.

At the start of what she said was probably the "decisive" third day of the extraordinary summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there were still many divisions among the leaders.

"I still can't say whether a solution will be found," she said. "There is a lot of good will ... but it may also be that no result will be achieved today."

The veteran German leader joined French President Emmanuel Macron and the summit host, European Council President Charles Michel, to prepare a new offer to break the logjam after Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his "Frugal Five" allies blocked his plan for a deal.

The Dutch want member states to have a say over national bailouts to ensure countries carry out labour market reforms. The "frugals" have resisted the pleas of Germany and France, traditionally the bloc's most powerful members, to agree a plan to help the countries hardest hit by the pandemic. *AFP*

FEWER FOREIGN STUDENTS IN U.S. SINCE 2016

Colleges say foreign students are listening: Since President Donald Trump was elected in 2016, the number of new international students coming to the US has fallen by 10% after years of growth. Trump's repeated attempts to curb immigration have sent a message that they aren't welcome in the United States

A BONANZA FOR COMPETITORS?

Though the White House dropped the plan, it fed a narrative that American universities are no longer the welcoming places they once were, said Denis Wirtz, vice provost for research at Johns Hopkins University. It comes as schools in Canada, Australia and other nations push to attract more international scholars

Only hours after the administration retreated from its policy, MIT's president published an op-ed warning that other countries "are working hard to attract students who have soured on the US because of growing anti-immigrant hostility

Students walk past a Harvard University building in Cambridge, Massachusetts | AP

AMERICANS UNIVERSITIES FEAR TRUMP EFFECT

Even with a fresh victory on behalf of international students, US universities fear they're losing a broader fight over the nation's reputation as a place that embraces and fosters the world's best scholars

> Our competitors envy our capacity to welcome talent from everywhere. I fear lately that we will recognize this strategic US strength only once it is lost
>
> L Rafael Reif, president of MIT

BIG PRICE TO PAY

❶ International students account for a major share of the nation's research force, especially in science and engineering fields that attract fewer Americans, said Daniel Diermeier, chancellor of Vanderbilt University. They make significant contributions to the economy

❷ The decline could devastate budgets at colleges that rely on tuition from foreign students, who typically pay higher rates. canceled their plans

❸ It's still to be seen how many will arrive this fall, but it's expected to be far below the 1.1 million who came last year

Twitter takes down Trump campaign ad

WASHINGTON

TWITTER has taken down a campaign-style video retweeted by President Donald Trump after rock group Linkin Park issued a cease-and-desist order over the unauthorized use of their music, media reports said.

The video, which featured a cover of the band's 2001 hit "In the End," was posted by White House social media director Dan Scavino and retweeted on Saturday by Trump. The tweet now says: "This media has been disabled in response to a report by the copyright owner."

Linkin Park said they did not authorize the use of their music by Trump or his campaign.

China blasts dam as water levels surge amid flood

BEIJING

CHINA blasted a dam over a river in Anhui province on Sunday to discharge the surging flood waters as torrential rains and floods wreaked havoc in the country, killing over 100 people.

The dam on the Chuhe river, a tributary of the mighty Yangtze River, was destroyed with explosives to ease the flood control pressure in the river basin, state-run CCTV reported.

Water levels on many rivers, including the Yangtze, have been unusually high this year because of torrential rains.

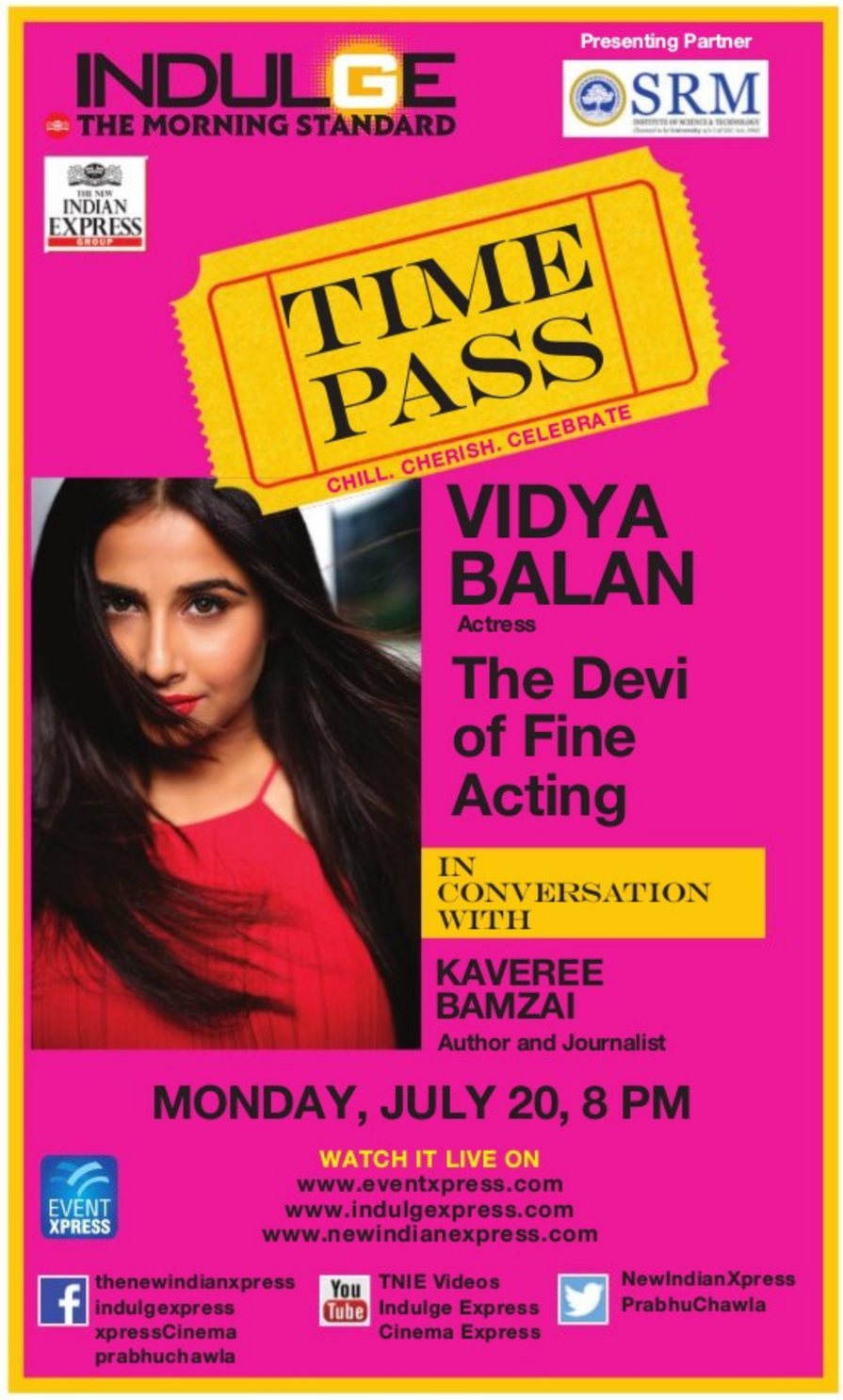
The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze last week opened three floodgates as the water level behind the world's biggest dam rose more than 15 metres above flood level.

An aerial view shows residential areas flooded due to a rise in water levels of the Yangtze river in Jiujiang in China's central Jiangxi province | AFP

Last week, official media reported that over 140 people were killed or missing since June, 37.89 million have been affected and over 2.24 lakh people relocated as China faced 'flood catastrophe' with 433 rivers were on spat.

On Sunday, China's national observatory renewed a yellow alert for rainstorms, as incessant downpours would continue to wreak havoc in vast stretches of the country.

From Sunday morning to Monday morning, heavy rains and rainstorms are expected in parts of Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi, among other regions, the National Meteorological Centre said, warning that some areas of Jilin, Liaoning and Anhui will experience downpours with up to 150 mm of daily rainfall. *PTI*



$359 mn India's spices exports rose by 23 per cent in June 2020 from $292 million in the same month last year, Assocham said.

Gold is a haven when you feel there is no hope, but for wealth creation one must invest in stocks

Gold vs Sensex debate is simply unfair

AMIT BANDRE

RAJAS KELKAR

GOLD prices are at a record high. In the past twenty years, both gold and the S&P BSE Sensex have given similar returns. If you stretch the period to 25 or 30 years, the Sensex comes out a winner. That can confuse many.

People tend to ask if it is worth going through the pain of learning about financial assets at the end of it all. Gold is so easy to buy and own. There is minimal complication.

Indian households, temple trusts are believed to own close to 25,000 tonnes of gold, according to the estimates of the World Gold Council, a global body. That is perhaps one of the most significant gold hoarding anywhere in the world. But the entire debate is an unfair one. Gold is a precious metal for you to park your money. You buy gold as you are interested in knowing about other avenues of using cash. You buy gold because you think the world is going to end soon. Effectively, you are protecting your wealth in a way you know best.

In 2012, legendary American investor Warren Buffett wrote in his annual letter to shareholders that most gold purchasers get motivated to buy gold because they believe that the ranks of the fearful will grow. The rally in gold prices in 2020 is a testimony of that. There is a surge in the class of the fearful. But that cannot be called as an investment. It is just an avenue to save money. An investment is something that turns into something productive. A piece of gold is likely to remain a piece of gold forever. An investment in business would result in an output that would multiply many-fold.

When to buy gold

It would be best if you bought gold for traditional reasons during marriages or festivals. It would help if you bought it only when you are sure, businesses are going to fail, and money is likely to lose value. That brings us to the issue of inflation. It is predominantly used as a hedge against rising prices of other goods and services. However, a slump in demand for everything is likely to keep the inflation in check.

There is also minimal demand going forward for jewellery or from industrial applications. Currently, people looking to preserve capital are parking their money in gold exchange-traded funds. However, these investors can move out swiftly into other asset classes once things change, and economies start to open up. The right time to buy gold would be when prices fall and not at the peak where it trades right now.

When to invest

You should invest in financial assets like equity only when you are planning for long-term goals. Retirement or your young child's education are the right goals for starting a systematic investment plan or SIP. You can buy equity index funds or Sensex or Nifty exchange-traded funds, to begin. As your confidence and income grow, you can purchase diversified equity funds. If you are willing to read and learn more about the finances of a company, you should put your savings in some frontline companies that dominate a particular sector. If you invest regularly and hold on to those shares, you could create adequate wealth for your retirement or your child's professional education.

The endgame

Wealth creation is a game that needs you to commit yourself. The onus is on you to read up. Know more about market cycles and the benefit of buying when prices are low and selling when you reach your financial goal. You can do that actively or passively. Indian households have enough gold in the house due to traditional reasons. There is no need for you to put more money into it. A passive investment in an index fund outperforms inflation in the economy over 10-15 years. Yes, it goes through cycles. However, if other people are fearful, you may want to figure out greed. Gold is a haven when you feel there is no hope. You can have a small portion of it in your portfolio. However, to create wealth, you have to throw your weight behind winning businesses.

WILL THE GOLD BULL RUN LAST?

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY
@New Delhi

GOLD has had a bull run through the coronavirus year so far, with prices rising by nearly 25.5 per cent between Jan 1 and July 16. The question being asked by investors and analysts alike is whether this run will last till the next year or will peter out.

Historically, investors in gold have tended to consolidate and pause after a multiple month run, sometimes pushing prices down marginally. However, analysts banking on twin facts — that the world will continue to face a recession this year and that the governments and central banks would try to combat that with large doses of release of money — are now betting that the gold run is here to stay, at least, till the middle of next year.

Goldman Sachs believes that gold will continue to rise and forecasts a target of $2,000 for 2021. Citi analysts, too, are optimistic about the yellow metal. Currently in the global market, 24 carat gold is selling at $1,810 an ounce or ₹47,814.21 for 10 grams. Prices in India are slightly more as taxes are higher: 24 carat gold is trading currently at about ₹41,150 for 10 grams.

Meanwhile, gold has had a fantastic run this year. On Jan 1, 2020, it traded at ₹39,150, rising to ₹41,200 in just one month's time. It further jumped to ₹43,210 by April 1 and ₹47,700 by June 1. With the International Monetary Fund forecasting a shrinking of the global economy by five per cent this year, and continued fall in global stock market indices, Goldman Sachs and Citi believe investors will continue to favour gold as a safe haven. Their logic is that the age-old adage — the more gloomy the market, the higher the price of gold. During the Great Depression, analysts say that gold prices rose from $20.67an ounce in 1929 to $35 an ounce in 1934.

Similarly, during the global slowdown triggered by the Lehman Brothers crisis in 2008, prices jumped from a little over $700 an ounce to $1900 by October 2011.

However, commodities trader Vikram Sawhney feels the forecasts may be too optimistic. "As the economies around the world reopen, there will be growth hotspots like China, Vietnam etc., money will flow there ... there is a limit to betting on gold as once the global economy comes back on track, which it will by 2021-2022, gold will certainly lose its shine." Sawhney and others who hold this belief, however, agree that in the short run gold will continue to "rule the roost."

Brokerages banking on industry gold also point out that non-interest bearing assets like gold and artefacts do well in times when interest yields on bonds are near zero as has happened in most countries. Says financial analyst Sushil Vir "gold as a pure investment is attracting people". A report by Credit Suisse seems to vindicate this belief, stating that ETF holding trends have "been rising for six successive months and has now crossed 100 million ounces for the first time (in mid-June)".

EXPRESS READ

HDFC Bank to raise `50,000 cr via debt

New Delhi: Shareholders of HDFC Bank have given approval to raise up to ₹50,000 crore through bonds to enhance capital base to fund its growth. In June, the board cleared capital proposal to be carried out over the next 12 months. Re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as executive director was also cleared.

HUL temporarily shuts down Haridwar plant

New Delhi: FMCG major HUL on Sunday said it has temporarily closed down its Haridwar plant, where several of its employees hav been tested positive for COVID-19. The company, however, did not disclose the exact number of employees but reports suggest that about 33 workers have been tested positive.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹52.10

Target Price ₹65

FEDERAL BANK

FB reported moderation in loan growth impacted by the COVID-19 led lockdown. This, we believe, will continue due to the consumption slowdown. We expect banks to take a cautious stance while lending to COVID affected sectors, certain retail and SME segments. We expect credit cost to stay elevated.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*

MONEY-WISE

Essential Money Matters to Discuss Before Marriage

WE all know that marriages are made in heaven, but married life has to be lived on earth! A couple may fall in love or have an arranged marriage, but they surely meet before their marriage. In the period between engagement and marriage, I really do not know what they talk about – I am assuming that 'money' is also important, so if you do not know, here is a list. In fact if you find it a sensitive topic, you should tag this article and make him/her read it. Here is a small list.

Spending habits: The chances are that the boy and the girl come from very different backgrounds, so it is better that they know what is 'cheap' and what is 'expensive'. I know of guys who try to live on ₹6,000 a month, and guys who can blow Rs. 6k in one evening. If for the girl eating out means an Udipi where they will run up a ₹400 bill and for the guy it means a place where the starters cost ₹500—that may not be easy to handle, no?

Using Credit: I know of couples where the girl is happy SAVING every rupee and the boy is happy to borrow for everything. This is about IMMEDIATE gratification and delayed gratification — talk about it.

Come clean on your past: It is common and acceptable to have a student loan, a personal loan, a car loan and a housing loan. It would be very nice if both of you can see each other's credit report – there is no worry of saying 'Oh I forgot to tell you' kind of debt.

If a girl HAS to support her family she is better off telling the guy she is to marry and MAKE sure that HIS parents know about it. Have heard of cases where we had to break a girl's salary so that she could send one to her parents and one to her in-laws.

What assets do you need and how will you fund it: Car, house, washing machine, 2 wheeler, whatever! Will you buy today, on instalments or do you have enough money to buy outright? If you have to buy, can you ask some of your friends to pool and gift for your wedding?

Any financial obligations from a previous marriage? Ask and get a clarification.

How much are you planning to spend on your wedding and honeymoon? How will you share the expenses? How much of the expenses will your parents bear? If you pay can you decide on how expensive the wedding will be? Talk it over.

Be very, very careful about how you are going to share the expenses. It does not make sense to say "I will pay the housing EMI you pay the expenses" – this hurts in case of a divorce. Sorry, but being ready for the worst makes sense, right? Hey Guys think hard, a large number of marriages end in divorce. In India the marriage laws are terribly anti-men- be careful. I know a couple who got married. The girl used to earn ₹69,000 and save almost everything, except for her monthly pass. They guy used to earn ₹69,000 and his mother would spend almost the whole thing on household expenses including travel, clothes, etc. HE was aged 31 at the time of the marriage and had ZERO voluntary savings! He had no life insurance, medical insurance, NO, nothing.

Are you the investing types, spending types or savings types? these three subsets are almost independent of each other, please be careful...

Put a date on which you will change your surname, and when will you merge the accounts. There is no tearing hurry!

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

Liberty policy to cover up to 60 illnesses

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LIBERTY General Insurance on Saturday announced the launch 'Critical Connect' policy in which it claims provide insurance cover for up to 60 critical illnesses including major and minor health conditions such as heart or major organ transplant, kidney failure, cancer, brain surgery, CIs related to HIV/AIDS, head trauma/injury, blindness, and multiple sclerosis among others.

Unlike a regular Health Insurance policy, where the customer makes a claim based on the actual expenses incurred on hospitalization, the Critical Connect Health Insurance Policy will pay a lump-sum amount to the customer on the diagnosis of listed critical illness covered under this policy. Under the policy, the customer can choose from two plans for sum insured ranging from ₹1 lakh up to ₹1 crore, the private insurer said.

I-T dept to launch e-campaign for taxpayers who haven't filed returns

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IF you had done a high-value transaction in FY19 and haven't filed tax return, there is chance that you may get a notice soon from the Income Tax (I-T) Department. The department is will be beginning with an e-campaign starting July 20 for the taxpayers who have not filed returns or have filed the wrong return or the high-value transaction conducted by them is not in line with the tax return filed, they will be given an option to rectify their tax returns. The 11-day campaign will end on July 31, 2020, the last date for filing the income tax return for FY19.

The tax department said that idea is to promote transparency among the taxpayers and one time chance to come up clean with any unintended error in their tax filing. The department has using data analytics to process data received from statement of financial transactions (SFT), banks, mutual funds etc, tax deduction at source (TDS), tax collection at source (TCS), foreign remittances (Form 15CC) statements etc to gather information about taxpayers who are liable to file tax returns but haven't filed.

The I-T department will reach out to these taxpayers through SMS or email and can submit a response online to the query of the tax department on the portal. "Taxpayer will also be able to submit online response by selecting among any of these options: (i) Information is correct, (ii) Information is not fully correct, (iii) Information related to other people/year, (iv) Information is duplicate/included in other displayed information, and (v) Information is denied. There would be no need to visit any I-T office, as the response has to be submitted online," said a CBDT notification.

After submitting the response the taxpayer can file or rectify the tax return. However, if the payment is due, they may get a tax notice or face penalty for non-filing tax returns or evading taxes. So if you receive such sms or email, there is no need to panic. Just respond to the query within the prescribed time. An official said that the department has already initiated faceless assessment system and has disposed of 7,116 cases so far.

7,116 cases disposed

The Income Tax department has already initiated faceless assessment system and has disposed of 7,116 cases under the first phase of faceless assessment, an official source said. A total of 58,319 cases were assigned in an automated way.

GOING GLOBAL

Indians' exposure to US stocks soars as home markets slump

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

WITH more and more Indians chasing US stocks amid the coronavirus-led market turmoil, fintech firms that help investors navigate these trades are making the most of this opportunity. One such company is Stockal Inc — a global investment platform for Indian investors, which has witnessed a 300 per cent growth in the number of customers in the last few months.

"We have added at least 2,000 new accounts in February and the figure has now surged to 6,000 a month. In terms of trade, the growth is even more. In March on a daily basis, we were doing transactions worth ₹2.5-3 crore. Post Covid-19 outbreak, this value has increased to ₹12-14 crore," said Sitashwa Srivastava ,co-founder and CEO of Stockal Inc.

Srivastava added that the reasons for the rise in inclination of Indians towards overseas stock markets are manifold: Unstable stock market at home, declining rate of interest, pent up demand as investors were looking for opportunity to diversify their investments geographically, good returns provided by the US capital market and even availability of homegrown digital investment platforms which have made investing in the US market easy and accessible.

"One can invest in companies like Google, Tesla and Netflix which are not listed in Indian stock market. Besides, the US market gives stable and even generous returns at lower volatility," said Vinay Bharathwaj, co-founder and executive chairman, Stockal Inc. He added that the declining value of rupee and rising dollar value have also pushed more Indians to put their money into US markets. Indians who have plans to travel to the US for academics or jobs are, in fact, seen starting to save early by making investments in the US markets.

Recently, Stockal has entered into partnership with HDFC Securities to make global investing more accessible to Indian investors. Enthused by the overwhelming response of investors in the overseas market, the company aims to enter at least ten new markets by August this year.

Bharathwaj added that their company has also managed to grab the attention of investors who had to rely on offline mediums or international digital investment platforms, which were usually more expensive in terms of brokerage fees to invest in overseas markets. Stockal also operates in markets like the Middle East, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Dominant Hamilton clinches Hungarian GP

Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday with a dominant performance on a rain-slicked circuit for his second victory in three races of the new season. The Mercedes driver had started from pole and led throughout. Max Verstappen finished second, Valtteri Bottas came third.

SABA, A VICTIM OF THE SYSTEM

Drawing praise despite being handed mammoth task of domestic logistics, BCCI's GM of cricket operations resigns following criticism from certain quarters

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

Barely a week after the BCCI approved its CEO Rahul Johri's exit, another top executive handed in his resignation. Syed Saba Karim, who was appointed General Manager (cricket operations) in December 2017, resigned on Saturday. It is understood that the top brass asked the former international to resign or face termination.

Apart from handling the affairs of the national women's team, Karim was also looking after domestic cricket. His resignation isn't surprising because he'd been under pressure from the administrators — past and present — with regards to the format of Ranji Trophy.

In the past month, several accusations were made against Karim by certain sections in the board and all seemed to be loaded with an agenda or two. Sources in the BCCI headquarters point out there was a lobby trying to pull him down.

Syed Saba Karim

This aside, much of the criticism the former stumper faced was regarding domestic cricket structure and scheduling of matches. Some of the state units were vocal also about the format and venues. However, it's not easy to please all while managing a domestic calendar with 38 teams and over 2000 matches in men's, women's and junior sections. Things got complex after the introduction of nine new teams in 2018-19.

Karim, who succeeded the late MV Sridhar, oversaw drastic changes in the Ranji Trophy format after the entry of the new teams following a Supreme Court order. The redrawn format with four groups (Elite A, B, C and Plate) made the tournament more interesting in the Elite section, as five teams from Group A and B combined fought for knockouts berths. The move saw teams push for victory as against settling for first-innings lead. This format might have had drawbacks, it received praise from several quarters nonetheless.

Strange it may seem, Karim was also blamed for scheduling matches in regions where monsoon affected play. For instance, the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day competition had to be rescheduled last season after 17 of the 30 matches in four cities ended without a result because of rain. Bengaluru, Vadodara, Jaipur and Dehradun hosted the matches. Eventually, the tournament had to be extended by five days.

Interestingly, Karim's resignation comes with the BCCI still to finalise the Ranji Trophy format. It is expected to begin in December instead of October because of the pandemic. Karim was supposed to make a presentation in the BCCI Apex Council meeting on July 17, but KVP Rao replaced him in the eleventh hour.

With Karim now serving a notice period, the BCCI has to advertise for the post, a constitutional mandate. For the record, the BCCI is without a CEO and Chief Financial Officer. Board secretary Jay Shah's tenure is over and president Sourav Ganguly's term will end on July 26.

EXPRESS READ

Arsenal shock City, enter FA Cup final

LONDON: Arsenal reached a record 21st FA Cup final as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's double clinched a shock 2-0 win over holders Manchester City at Wembley. Gunners boss Mikel Arteta outwitted City manager Pep Guardiola with a counter-attacking scheme and Aubameyang struck in each half. Arteta captained Arsenal to FA Cup triumph six years ago and, in his first season in charge of the north London.

Windies toil, Sibley makes saliva error

New Delhi: Shamarh Brooks's unbeaten 60 and Kraigg Brathwaite's 75 saw West Indies reach 227/4 at tea of the fourth day of their second Test against England. The visitors were trailing were still 43 runs short of avoiding a follow-on. The day also saw Dom Sibley rub saliva on the ball by mistake.

Brief scores (Day 4, tea): England 469/9 decl vs West Indies 227/4 (Brooks 60 n.o, Brathwaite 75).

Boxers allowed inside Patiala campus at last

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

AFTER days of uncertainty, most of the boxers and coaching staff were allowed to enter the NIS Patiala facilities on Sunday. The rest will follow on Monday. It is understood that SAI had an online orientation programme with the boxers who were quarantined outside the main premises.

The camp is for elite boxers, who have either qualified for Tokyo Olympics or are on the verge of qualifying. The boxers started assembling in Patiala earlier this month.

CoachesCA Kuttappa, Mohammad Ali Qamar and Chhote Lal too entered the NIS facilities after completing their quarantine period. In fact, the coaches had to go for another round of Covid-19 tests after a doctor tested positive last week. Their results were negative. Team physio Rohit Kashyap has also entered the premises.

It is learnt that to the relief of the pugilists and boxing federation officials, five male boxers — Gaurav Solanki (57kg), Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Deepak Kumar (52kg) and one more — were allowed to enter. The four who reached Patiala late will follow after completing their quarantine period. Two female boxers had apparently entered the premises on Saturday and two on Sunday. Pooja Rani (75kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Sonia Lather and Sakshi Chaudhary (57kg) are inside. Only Manisha Moun (57kg) is not there.

All the boxers have been put up in a separate wing and asked not to mingle with athletes (athletics and weightlifting teams) who are already inside. Training might take a few more days to start as they might not have access to all the facilities. But the boxers and the coaching staff are not in a hurry. Priority is to wait for the time to start training.

UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(In terms of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002)

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued a Demand notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 and thereafter in exercise of powers under Section 13(12) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 has taken possession of properties mortgaged to Bank under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002. The undersigned in the capacity of Authorized Officer has decided for sale of the following properties to public by E-auction and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of immovable properties mentioned hereunder on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS" basis.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower's / Guarantor.	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Amount due as per notice c) Date of Possession d) Present outstanding dues.	a) Date & Time for Inspection of Property b) Last Date & Time of submission of EMD & documents. c) Date & Time of E-Auction	a) Reserve Price b) EMD Amount c) Bid Increase Amount
1	Borrower: 1. Mr. Chandrasekhar S/o Mr. Sharanappa 2. Mrs. Manjula N W/o Chandrasekhar, No.35 (Northern Portion), 2nd Cross, Asset No.56/1, Doddabidarakallu, Maranna Layout, Bangalore North Taluk, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore - 560073.	a) 13.12.2019 b) Rs.24,54,167.85 plus interest, expenses, charges etc. c) 10.3.2020 d) Rs. 24,81,803.85 plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	a) Rs.36,80,000 /- b) Rs.3,68,000/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
	Description of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building Property No.35, Northern Portion Assessment No.56/2, Maranna Layout, Doddabidarakallu Village, Yeswanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru - 560073. GF+FF+SF Site Area 660 Sqft, Carpet Area 780 Sqft and Bounded on :- East By : Private Property , West By : Road, North By : Site No.34 and South By : Southern Portion of the Same Property. IN THE NAME OF Mr. Chandrasekhar Branch : Vijaynagar, Ph.: 080 - 23106262 / 23107803 E-mail : vijban@ucobank.co.in A/C No.: 20090210000939 IFSC Code : UCBA0002009			
2	Borrower: 1. Riyaihuddin S/o Abdul Suban 2. Mrs. Asmath W/o Mr. Riyaihuddin No.397, Flat No. TF-01, 3rd Floor, CHEITHANYA'S NEST BUILDING, 4th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Herohalli, Bangalore - 560091.	a) 20.2.2020 b) Rs.31,38,551.32 plus interest, expenses, charges etc., C) 10.6.2020 d) Rs.31,71,455.32 plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	a) Rs.44,28,000/- b) Rs. 4,42,800/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
	Description of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of Residential Building bearing Flat No.TF-01, 'CHAITHANYA'S NEST' Apartment, 3rd Floor, BBMP Khata No.418/5, Property Site No.397, Formed in Sy No.7 (p), 152 (P), 153/1, 154/1, 154/2, 155, 156, 157 etc, 4th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Syndicate Bank Employees HBCS Layout, Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore - 560091. 2BHK Site Area 1200 Sqft +300 Sqft (UDS) and Total Site bounded on : East by :Road, West by : Site No.387, North by : Site No.386 and South by : Site no.398. Flat Bounded by : East by : Open Space, West by : Flat No.TF-2, North by : Corridor and South by : Open Space. IN THE NAME OF : Mr. Riyaihuddin. Branch : Vijaynagar, Ph.: 080 - 23106262 / 23107803 E-mail : vijban@ucobank.co.in A/C No.: 20090210000939 IFSC Code : UCBA0002009			
3	Borrower: 1. M/S Rama Enterprises # F 5, Door no. 8-3-224/5, 4th Floor, Satya Sadan, beside Ratna Deep Super Market, Madhuranagar, Hyderabad – 500038. 2.Mr. Vegesna Sitarama Raju (Partner) S/O Mr. V Satyanarayana Raju, Plot no. 47, Palle Enclave Kapra, Opp- Cal Public School, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500062 . 3. Mr. Puttori Suresh Kumar (Partner) S/O P Rangaraju, Plot no. 104, SR Residency, Venkata Ramana Colony, Hafeezpet, Kukatpally, Hyderabad Telangana -500085 Mortgagor:- Mr. Vegesna Sitarama Raju (Partner) S/O Mr. V Satyanarayana Raju,	a) 3.7.2019 b) Rs.4,34,77,617/- plus interest, expenses, charges etc. c) 9.9.2019 d) Rs.4,24,68,884/- plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	a) Rs.2,37,00,000/- b) Rs.23,70,000/- c) Rs.25,000/-
	Description of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the residential Vacant Land Bearing Sy No.318/A1/2/1, Maheswaram Revenue Village and G.P Maheswaram Mandal, Ranga Readdy District, Telengana - Measuring 0.975 acres and Bounded on the : East by : Land belong to Vendor said on this day to V Sita Rama Raju, West by : Land in Sy No.318 belong to TSIICL, North by : Land belongs to Mannan Khan and South by : Road. IN THE NAME OF : Mr. V Sita Rama Raju. Branch : Koramangala Branch, Ph.: 080 - 25532428 / 25526845 E-mail : Korama@ucobank.co.in A/C No.: 10530210002025 IFSC Code : UCBA0001053			
4	Borrower: 1.Mr. S. Kiran Kumar S/o Late Sreenivasa Murthy 2. Savitha L W/o S Kiran Kumar No.62/1 (Old No.62), PID No.133-WO145-59, Binny Layout, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Bangalore - 560104.	a) 28.10.2019 b) Rs.2,26,17,647/- plus interest, expenses, charges etc., C) 6.2.2020 d) Rs. 2,26,91,882/- plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Shown Against each Property below.
	Description of Immovable Property - All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building Bearing Flat No.B001, B105, B106, B205, B206, B305, B306, "NISARGA CAPITAL" APARTMENT, Khata No.1117/148/3, E-Khata No.150300401000102507, Converted Khata No.148/3, Adjacent to Nisarga Layout, Hoskote, Malur Road, Kannurhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru -562114. Building have Stilt + GF and 3 upper Floor. All are 2BHK Flat. Total Site bounded on East by: Sy No.162 & 163, West by: Sy No.149 & 150, North by: Remaining land in Sy No.148/3 and South by: Road and Brook. IN THE NAME OF Mr. S Kiran Kumar. 1. Flat No. B001 having super built up area 1223 sq.ft in Ground Floor and Bounded on East by : Corridor & Flat No.B010, West By : Open Space, North by : Flat No.002 and South by : Open Space. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 42,09,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 4,20,900/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 2. Flat No. B105 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in First Floor and Bounded on East by : Corridor & Flat No.B106, West By : Open Space, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.B104. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 40,17,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 4,01,700/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 3. Flat No. B106 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in First Floor and Bounded on East by : Open Space, West By : Corridor & Flat No.B105, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.107. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 38,33,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.3,83,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 4. Flat No. B205 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in Second Floor and Bounded on East by : Corridor & Flat No.B206, West By : Open Space, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.204. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 40,17,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.4,01,700/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 5. Flat No. B206 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in Second Floor and Bounded on East by : Open Space, West By : Corridor & Flat No.B205, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.207. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 38,33,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.3,83,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 6. Flat No. B305 having super built up area 1165 sq.ft in Third Floor and Bounded on East by : Corridor & Flate No.B306, West By : Open Space, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.304. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 40,17,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.4,01,700/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- 7. Flat No. B306 having super built up area 1110 sq.ft in Third Floor and Bounded on East by : Open Space, West By : Corridor & Flat No.B305, North by : Open Space and South by :Flat No.307. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 38,33,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.3,83,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Branch : Hoskote Branch, Ph.:080-27931370 E-mail : Hosako@ucobank.co.in A/C No. : 24430210000199 IFSC Code : UCBA0002443			
5	Borrower: M/s Srimaya Builders and Developers PARTNERS 1.Mr. Gangadhar T.P S/o Parameswarappa – #No.240, 7th Cross, 8th Main, MEI Layout, Bangalore –560073. 2. Mr. Rangaswamy S/o Boregowda – #No.20/5, 10th Cross, Sri Bhagya Nilaya,Behind Spoorthi English School, Bagalagunte, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore – 560073 3.Mr. Krishnappa A.T S/o Venkata Ramanaiah - #No.42, Sapthagiri Nivasa, 3rd A Cross, 8th Main, Bhuvaneswari Nagar, T.Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560 057. Mortgagor:-(All Three Partner of M/s Srimaya Builders and Developers) GUARANTOR:- (All Three Partners of M/s Srimaya Builders and Developers) 1. Mr. Gangadhar T.P S/o Parameswarappa, 2. Mr. Rangaswamy S/o Boregowda 3. Mr. Krishnappa A.T S/o Venkata Ramanaiah	a) 8.4.2019 b) Rs.3,73,41,207.99 plus interest, expenses, charges etc. c) 12.6.2019 d) Rs.90,03,354.49 plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Shown Against each Property below.
	Description of Immovable Property : Property No.2. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/7, duly converted for residential purpose issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Conversion order No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/43/11-12, dated 16.9.2011 situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 18 guntas and bounded on the : - East by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/8 belongs to Sri Veerakempegowda, West by :- Remaining Portion of Land bearing No.120/7, North by :- Remaining Portion of Land Bearing No.120/7 belongs to Sri Huchaiah, South by :- Land bearing Sy No.123. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 87,20,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 8,72,000/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.3. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/7, duly converted for residential purpose issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Conversion order No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/42/11-12, dated 16.9.2011 situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 21 guntas and bounded on the : - East by :-Remaining Portion of Land Bearing No.120/7, West by :- Land bearing Survey No.118 belongs to Chowdappa, North by :- Remaining Portion of Land Bearing No.120/7 and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.123 belongs to Smt Jayalakshmamma. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 1,01,73,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 10,17,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.4. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/7, duly converted for residential purpose issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Conversion order No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/40/11-12, dated 16.9.2011 situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 18 guntas and bounded on the : - East by :- Remaining Portion of Land Bearing No.120/7, West by :- Land bearing Survey No.118 belongs to Chowdappa, North by :- Remaining Portion of Land Bearing No.120/7 and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.123 belongs to Smt Jayalakshmamma. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 95,22,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 9,52,200/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.5. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/8, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 26 guntas (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/41/11-12, dated 16.9.2011) and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/9, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/7 belonging to Sri Huchaiah, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/2 belonging to Sri Manjunath and South by :- Land bearing No.120/12 belongs to Sri Chikka. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 1,25,96,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.12,59,600/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.6. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/9, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 23 guntas (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/41/11-12, dated 16.9.2011 and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/10 Belonging to Sri Nagaraju, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/8, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/2 belonging to Sri Chennagangaiah and South by :- Land bearing No.120/12 belongs to Sri Chikka. a) Reserve Price : Rs.1,11,42,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.11,14,200/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.7. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/10, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 1 acre (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/08/10-11, dated 21.4.2011) and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/11 Belongs to Sri Munivenkatappa, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/9 belongs to Sri Veerakempegowda, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/2, 4 belongs to Sri Chikka Channaiah and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/12 belongs to Sri Nanjappa. a) Reserve Price : Rs.1,93,77,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.19,37,700/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.8. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/11, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 23 guntas (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/11/10-11, dated 21.4.2011) and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/1 Belongs to Sri Narasimhaiah, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/10 belongs to Sri Nagaraju, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/3, 4 belongs to Sri Lakshmanappa and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/12 belongs to Sri Nanjappa. a) Reserve Price : Rs.1,11,42,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.11,14,200/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.9. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.123/3, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 3 acre 17 guntas (inclusive A karab 0-3 guntas) (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/131/10-11, dated 24.2.2011) and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.122 Belongs to Sri Bailappa, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.123/2 belongs to Sri Nanjappa, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/14 belongs to Sri Sanjeevaiah and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.123/1 belongs to Sri Narasegowda. a) Reserve Price : Rs.6,55,65,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.65,56,500/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Property No.10. All that piece and parcel of Survey No.120/14, situated at Thavarekere Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring 1 acre 11 guntas (converted for non - agricultural residential purpose vide reference No.ALN/(ST-2)SR/134/10-11, dated 24.2.2011) and bounded on the : - East by :- Land Bearing Sy No.121 Belongs to Sri Gangaiah, West by :- Land bearing Sy No.120/11 belongs to Sri Narasimhaiah, North by :- Land Bearing Sy No.120/13 belongs to Sri Kumbi Narasimhaiah and South by :- Land bearing Sy No.123/3 belongs to Sri Sanjeevaiah. a) Reserve Price : Rs.2,47,07,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs.24,70,700/- c) Bid Increase Amount : Rs.25,000/- Branch : Hesaraghata Branch, Ph.: 080-28379615 E-mail :- hesara@ucobank.co.in A/C No.: 21040210001332 IFSC Code : UCBA0002104.			
6	Borrower: 1. M/s Bluewhale Machinery Technologies Pvt Ltd No.284, 2nd Floor, (Between 17th and 18th Cross) Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003. 2. Deepak D Mehta and Rina D Mehta B-103, 1st Floor, Pride Pavilian, 1st Stage, 6th Phase, West of Chord Road, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560010.	a) 17.12.2019 b) Rs.1,85,08,795/-plus interest expenses, charges etc c) 18.2.2020 d) Rs.1,85,45,000/- plus unapplied interest and costs charges etc.	a) 17.8.2020 Between 10.00 am. to 5.00 pm b) On or before 18.8.2020 before 4.30 pm c) 20.8.2020 between 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Shown Against each Property below.
	Description of Immovable Property :1) All that piece parcel of the immovable Residential Villa (Row - House / Villament) with 3 bedroom constructed in Ground + First + Terrace, bearing House No.10, " COURTYARD", Sy No.163/03 and 163/2, Varthur, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East. In all measuring 2184.156 sqft undivided land area (common areas) 61.35 Sq.ft of additional garden area and 2361.25 Sqft of Built up area (construction not completed) and Bounded on the : East by : Row House No.05, West by : Road, North By : Row House No.09 and South by : Row House No.11. IN THE NAME OF : M/s Bluewhale Machinery Technologies Pvt Ltd. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 1,01,83,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 10,18,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : .Rs.25,000/- 2) All that piece parcel of the immovable Residential Villa (Row - House / Villament) with 3 bedroom constructed in Ground + First + Terrace, bearing House No.13, " COURTYARD", Sy No.163/03 and 163/2, Varthur, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East. In all measuring 2129.858 sqft undivided land area (common areas) 120.87 Sq.ft of additional garden area and 2302.55 Sqft of Built up area (construction not completed) and Bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Row House No.18, North By : Row House No.14 and South by : Row House No.12. IN THE NAME OF : M/s Bluewhale Machinery Technologies Pvt Ltd. a) Reserve Price : Rs. 1,00,13,000/- b) EMD Amount : Rs. 10,01,300/- c) Bid Increase Amount : .Rs.25,000/- Branch : Malleswaram Branch, Ph.: 080-23349334 E-mail : Malles@ucobank.co.in A/C No.:02310210000991 IFSC Code : UCBA0000231			

TERMS & CONDITIONS: **1.**The e-Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". 2)** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property and statutory dues (if any) are not known. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ ies & to inspect & satisfy themselves. **3.**Statutory dues/ liabilities etc. due to the Government/ Local Body are not known and shall be borne by the successful bidder, if any. **4.** In case of sole bidder, the bid amount quoted in his bid form must be improved by at least one bid incremental value, lest the sale shall be cancelled / deferred. **5.**Successful bidder shall bear the charges / fee payable for registration of the property as per law. **6.**Sale will not be confirmed if the borrower tenders to the Bank contractual dues along with other expenses prior to the Authorised Officer issuing Sale Confirmation Letter to the successful bidder. In such case the Bank shall refund without interest the entire amount remitted by the successful bidder. **7.** The Interested Bidders who require assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid documents, Training / Demonstration, Terms and Conditions Online Internet bidding etc., May visit website **https//www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. For any property related query may contact the Chief Manager- Mr. RAJ KUMAR BHOLE, Mobile No-70900 05115, Email- zoblr.rec@ucobank.co.in. 8.** Auction would be conducted for an initial period of 60 minutes followed by unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each, in case a valid bid is received in last 5 minutes. **9.** All Intending bidder shall register with the E-AUCTION portal to create their user ids and passwords. Bidders have to register online by providing their KYC documents and registration fees as prescribed by service provider (MSTC). Once the KYC documents are verified by MSTC, the registration will be activated within a period of maximum two working days from the date of submission of all KYC documents and registration fee. **10.** The Successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including earnest money already paid), immediately on closure of the E-Auction Sale proceedings on the same day or next day of the Sale in the same mode as mentioned above and if he fails to deposit the same, the amount deposited towards the earnest money shall be forfeited and the property shall be sold again. The balance 75% of the purchase price shall have to be paid within 15 days or within the extended time from the date of confirmation of sale by the authorized officer. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited including earnest money deposited. **11.**The successful bidder has to bear theTDS of 1% if the property value exceeds 50 lacs.. **This Notice is also to be treated as 30 days Statuary sale notice to borrower / Guarantor/ Mortgagor Under Rule 8 (6) Security Interest (Enforcement), Rules 2002. 12)** Prospective buyers may visit Website **https://ibapi.in** for more details about the property.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 20.7.2020

Authorised Officer
UCO Bank

The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft that carried two NASA astronauts to the International Space Station late in May is set to depart the orbiting laboratory on August 1 and reach Earth on August 2.

THE BIG SHOT

TNIE's vaccine tracker chronicles the progress of Covid-19 candidates under development. It also lists those entering phase 1-3 trials and those in pre-clinical stages

SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the COVID-19 pandemic, has pushed several pharmaceutical companies into action.

Globally, there are 23 vaccine cadidates undergoing human trials as on July 15. Of these, two, namely China's Sinovac and University of Oxford-AstraZeneca, have just entered the final leg initiating phase 3 trials.

Phase 3 trials could take at least 12 months, which means the earliest a Covid-19 vaccine can hit pharmacies is July, 2021. As per the US FDA guidelines effective June 30, successful candidates must provide data from placebo-controlled trials indicating their vaccine is at least 50 per cent effective in order to be authorised for use.

India's Bharat Biotech and Cadila Healthcare Ltd are just beginning phase 1/2 trials.

Besides, there are 140 other vaccine candidates, including those by Indian companies like Sun Pharmaceuticals, Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals, Biocon and Indian Immunologicals Ltd, which are undergoing preclinical testing.

Stages of development

The pre-clinical stage includes vaccine testing in laboratories (in vitro tests) and studies conducted in animals (in vivo tests) to evaluate the potential of the vaccine.

The next stage includes clinical trials done on humans in three phases. Phase I is done on less than 100 healthy volunteers followed by phase II on several hundred volunteers. Phase III is done on a much larger scale involving up to several thousand people.

TREATMENT PRODUCT CATEGORIES

ANTIBODIES
The immune system comprises antibodies, which are part of our natural defence systems, to detect bacteria or viruses and target them for destruction. Some of the treatments include convalescent plasma, where scientists either use antibodies from blood from recovered patients

ANTIVIRALS
Typically, viruses carry only nucleic acid — DNA or RNA — with a protective shell around them. But it multiplies only when attached to animal or human cells. Antivirals stop viruses from making more copies of themselves by blocking one or more steps in the replication process

CELL-BASED THERAPIES
Cell-based therapies transfer live cells into patients to treat the disease. How are they made? Scientists take cells either from patients or donors and transfer them with or without alteration. Cell sources include those from fat tissue or bone marrow, from placenta and others

DEVICES
Then there are devices such as those for blood purification to treat the disease. The machines filter patients' blood to remove excess proteins or toxins that are causing problems, else they could eventually lead to respiratory or organ failure in coronavirus patients

RNA-BASED TREATMENTS
In this type of Covid-19 treatments, molecules act as messengers, literally. Their sole job is to carry either of the two instructions to human cells: build useful proteins that can strengthen immune system or block harmful proteins collapsing the immune system

OTHERS
Potential treatment lines being explored/under use include steroids, malarial drugs, drugs treating high blood pressure, drugs treating over-reaction of the immune system (known as a cytokine storm), drugs treating autoimmune diseases, and drugs preventing blood clots

VACCINES UNDER DEVELOPMENT BY 10 INDIAN COMPANIES

- **Biocon in collaboration with Equilium**
  Itolizumab, anti-CD6 IGG1 monoclonal antibody
- **Agastiya Biotech**
  AB001
- **Sun Pharma ACCH**
  Plant-derived (phytopharmaceutical) drug
  Phase II trial started in June, results expected by October
- **Zydus Cadila Healthcare**
  DNA Plasmid (Zycov-D), Phase 1/2 trials in July
- **Zydus Cadila**
  Replicating viral vector; measles vector
- **Bharat Biotech**
  Whole-virion inactivated (Covaxin)
  Phase 1/2 trials in July
- **Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University**
  Recombinant deactivated rabies virus containing S1
- **Indian Immunologicals in collaboration with Griffith University**
  Codon deoptimised live attenuated virus
- **Codagenix in collaboration with Serum Institute of India**
  Codon deoptimised live attenuated virus
- **Serum Institute in collaboration with multiple companies**
  Protein Subunit; full-length recombinant Sars Cov-2 glycoprotein nanoparticle vaccine adjuvanted with Matrix M (NVX-Vov2373)
- **Biological E Ltd**
  Protein Subunit; adjuvanted protein subunit (RBD)
- **Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals**
  VSV-S, N/A

BHARAT BIOTECH

The Hyderabad-based vaccine maker is the first Indian company to enter clinical trials for its indigenously developed vaccine candidate.

As per data furnished with the CTRI, the company has begun a seamless Phase 1 trial which will be followed by a randomised, double-blind, multi-centre Phase 2 study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, tolerability and immunogenicity of the whole-virion inactivated Sars-Cov-2 vaccine (BBV152) named Covaxin, in healthy volunteers. These clinical trials are being conducted across 12 cities including AIMS, Patna and New Delhi, in Nagpur, Jajapur, Belgaum, Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, and others.

The Phase 1 trial includes 375 volunteers aged between 18 and 55, while Phase 2 will take 750 volunteers aged 12 to 65. Three groups of healthy volunteers will receive two intramuscular doses of BBV152 vaccine formulations. The esimated duration of the trial is three months, ie., it is expected to end in October.

VACCINE TYPES

Live attenuated virus
Vaccines introduce antigens, which are simply foreign proteins into patients. When one gets infected with the virus, the foreign protein recognises the virus, protects the patient from developing the disease and destroys the virus. One such treatment includes infecting people with a live but weakened ("attenuated") virus that can make copies of itself and activate a strong immune response without making people sick.

Inactivated virus
Here the disease-causing virus has been killed with heat or chemicals, so it won't make you sick. This is used in patients who are averse to live attenuated virus vaccine. Inactivated virus vaccines are considered safer, but aren't deemed as strong as live attenuated virus vaccines, so additional doses are given to strengthen the immune response.

Protein Subunit
These are similar to inactivated virus vaccines. Only, they don't contain live viruses. Instead, protein fragments of a destroyed virus are introduced into the vaccinated person to trigger an immune response in their body to take on the virus.

Virus-like particles
Here too, vaccines don't contain live viruses, but resemble the virus just enough to mimic the outer shell of the virus to trigger an immune response without causing disease

Nucleic-acid or gene-based
This approach uses genetic engineering to deliver nucleic acids (DNA or RNA) that carry instructions to produce viral proteins rather than delivering the proteins themselves into human cells to trigger the immune response. Because they consist only of nucleic acids (DNA or RNA) and no other viral parts, they are safer, easier and quicker to make. DNA-based vaccines inject a genetically engineered blueprint of viral gene(s) into small DNA molecules called plasmids, which instruct cells to build viral proteins. RNA-based vaccines work similarly, but instead of using plasmids to get into cells, they use fatty molecules called lipids, which then instruct cells to build viral proteins to trigger an immune response.

Viral vector
Unlike DNA or RNA-based vaccines that use plasmids or lipids, viral vector vaccines use weakened viruses called vectors to transport the blueprint of viral genes.

Replicating viral vector vaccine uses a live but weakened vector that replicates within cells and produces viral proteins and strengthen the immune response. Non-replicating viral vector vaccine uses a killed viral vector, but doesn't deliver long-lasting immunity. Therefore, booster shots may be needed to provide ongoing protection against the virus

Text: Sunitha Natti

Source: WHO, CTRI, Milken Institute

50% surge in cyclists on Paris streets

POST-LOCKDOWN

DUBAI: Since France emerged from its two-month lockdown in May, the number of cyclists in Paris has skyrocketed, increasing by more than 50 percent, according to the city council.

Videos on social media of packs of cyclists along the Rue de Rivoli -- a historic, bustling thoroughfare that cuts across central Paris -- elicited astonished reactions online. During the lockdown, 50 km of temporary bike lanes were set up within the ring road, and another 100 km in the suburbs.

However, the two-wheel boom, experts and advocates say, is not a happy accident but the result of years of planning to cut polluting traffic, accelerated by several crises. "The great thing about Paris is not so much that they made some bike lanes, that's just the tip of the iceberg," said Stefan Bendiks, director of Artgineering, a Brussels-based mobility design firm.

STARRY SKY

The Milky Way in the sky above what is known as the "International Car Forest of the Last Church" in Goldfield, Nevada, in the US. The outdoor art installation has over 36 cars, trucks, vans and buses that have been balanced on their ends. Created in 2002, the tourist attraction offers no explanation for its history or the motivation behind it | AFP

Rare birth of twin lemurs in S'pore zoo

Singapore: Twin red-ruffed lemurs were born at Singapore zoo, officials said Thursday, a rare double delivery that is a boost for the endangered saucer-eyed primates. It was the first birth at the zoo of the endangered creatures, which are native to Madagascar, in over a decade, Wildlife Reserves Singapore said. The arrival of the yet-to-be-named twins was "particularly special" because the creatures breed only once a year, it said. The fluffy lemurs are a distinctive rust colour, with black faces, hands, feet and tails, and a white patch on their heads. The last of the species to be born at the zoo was the twins' father, Bosco, 11 years ago.

Welding workshop makes Transformers out of scrap metal

TOURIST SPOT

ANG THONG: Towering Transformers, life-sized Marvel superheroes and extraterrestrial lifeforms -- a "House of Steel Robots" in Thailand has made a name for itself by transforming scrap metal into dazzling sculptures inspired by Hollywood blockbusters.

Ban Hun Lek, an hour's drive north of Bangkok, has become a popular weekend spot for families eager for Instagram selfies against a backdrop that looks plucked from the the silver screen.

Visitors to Phairote Thanomwong's welding workshop gaze up at eight-metre-high (26 feet) sculptures modelled after the robots of the Transformers franchise and a jet-black King Kong hewn together from old car parts. Phairote opened his welding workshop 20 years ago and eventually converted its front section into a gallery for curious tourists.

"It was just a hobby at first," he tells AFP. "When I was a child, I liked mechanics a lot... so I made what I liked into my work." Every sculpture is built using scrap metal and recyclables, which makes each creation unique, he said.

A one-metre-high piece sells for up to 30,000 baht ($950), and the majority of his customers are overseas buyers.

Since the pandemic spread around the world and sent the global economy into a tailspin, Phairote says his art exports have been put on pause.

Still, the towering metal brontosaurus at Ban Hun Lek, which can be seen from the main freeway, draws dozens of Thai visitors each weekend.

"If they want to see something amazing, they should come here," Phairote says with a laugh.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

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DAY'S DIARY

Death anniversary

One of the pop culture icons of the 20th century, martial artist, director, actor and philosopher Bruce Lee died on this day in 1973 at the age of 32

CAUSE OF DEATH

Lee died of brain edema just a month before the premiere of his popular movie, *Enter the Dragon*. He was buried on July 30 in Seattle in the Lake View Cemetery

OWN MARTIAL ART

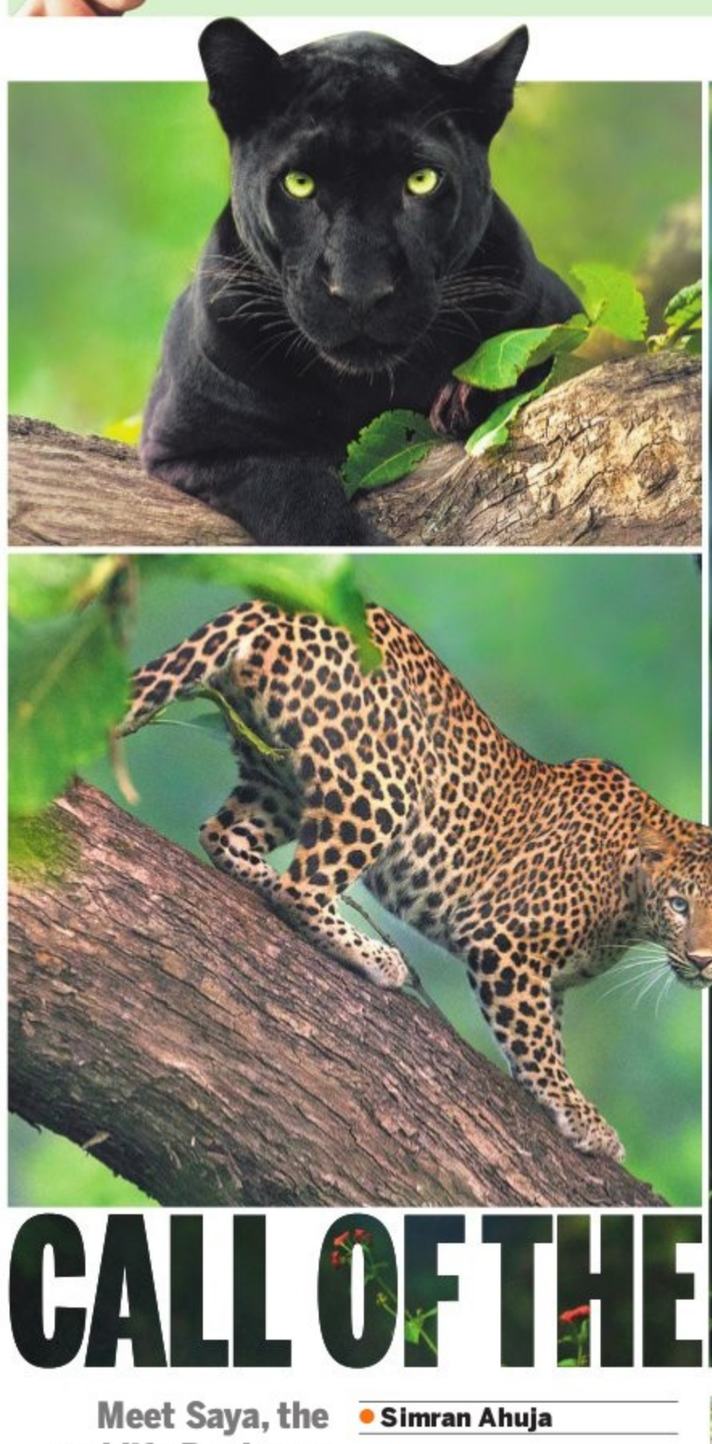
Lee was discovered in the mid-sixties and cast as Kato in the TV series The Green Hornet. During this time he also developed his own martial art — Jeet Kune Do

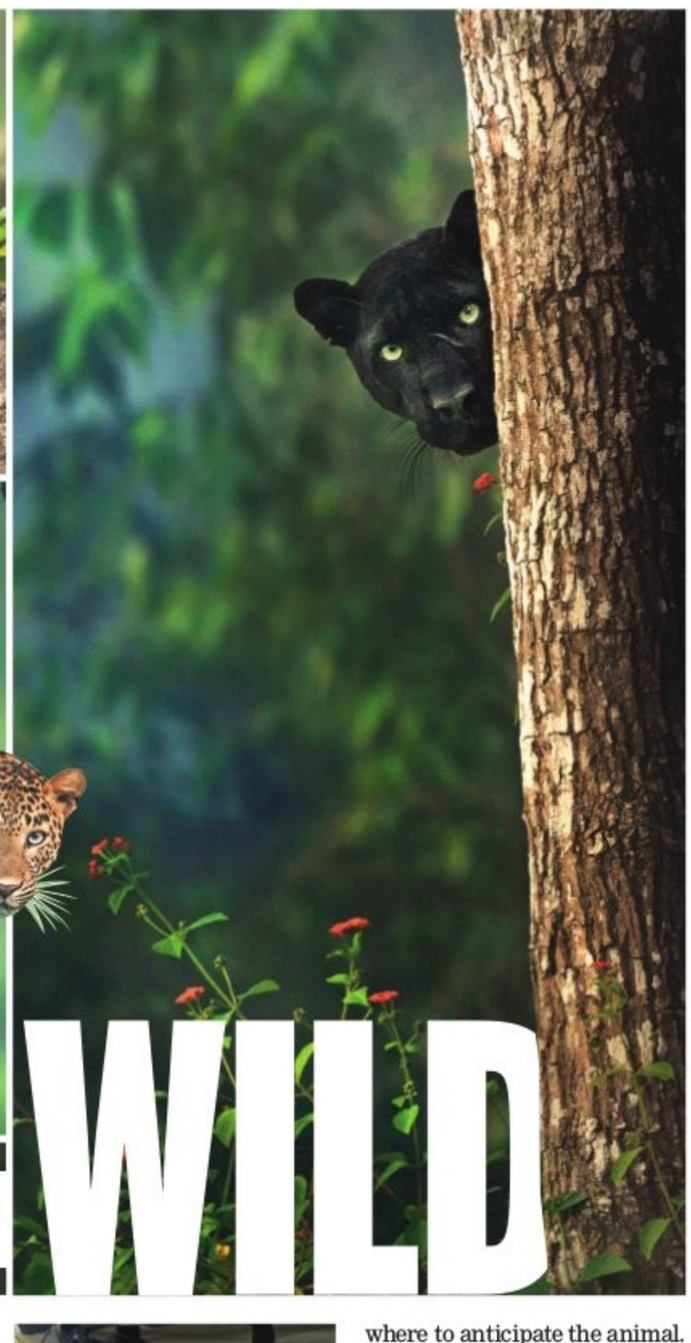
KICKS & PUNCHES

His daily workout included 2,000 kicks, 5,000 punches, 200 leaning twists, 200 frog kicks, 100 sit-up twists and 100 leg raises

Saad Khan's Sangeet to be a romantic comedy

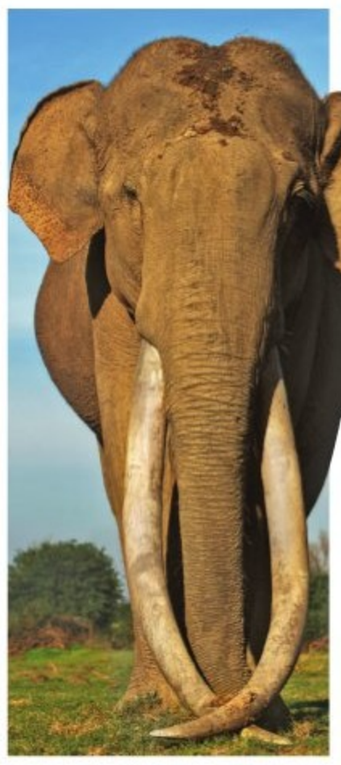
PG 4





CALL OF THE WILD

Meet Saya, the real life Bagheera captured by wildlife photographer Shaaz Jung, whose photos of the black panther are a rage on the internet these days



(Top, right) The black panther of Kabini; other wildlife shots clicked by Shaaz Jung

● Simran Ahuja

A sweltering summer day in February. An empty water hole in Kabini. And there, on a road that loops around the water body, was where wildlife photographer Shaaz Jung spotted the elusive black panther. Bagheera may have been a character in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, but spotting a melanistic leopard isn't just stuff that stories are made of. For Jung, the past few years have been like a dream. Lasting all of a few seconds, Jung's retelling of this "powerful" first meet with the rare black panther is enough to give anyone goosebumps. "It was like nothing you've seen before in the forest – just a black figure in the distance. He was shy then, so he just looked at us and ran into the thickness," says Jung, whose photos of Saya – the name given to the leopard – went viral on social media last week, and were even shared by aunt Kareena Kapoor Khan (Jung's father, Saad bin Jung, is Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi's nephew). This first sighting took place in 2016, a year after Jung learned of the big cat's existence in Kabini. "I was numb for the first 2-3 seconds. The driver had to remind me to lift my camera," says Jung, who will share more instances of sightings and discuss conservation efforts during a conversation with We-Work India CEO Karan Virwani, as part of the co-working space and Embassy Group's Stories platform.

Shaaz Jung

While Saya's photos have garnered lakhs of likes on social media, there's more to the picture than what meets the eye. Behind every mesmerising shot of Saya's piercing eyes or lithe body atop a tree lies 6-8 exhausting hours of tracking in the jungle. After Jung approached National Geographic with a script, he spent the years from 2017 to 2020 in the Kabini jungles with a research and filming permit to gather footage of the panther. "Your sixth sense is actually a strong factor when it comes to tracking. You can feel the tension before you see a predator, because the forest starts behaving differently," explains Jung. With Saya (Hindi for shadow) having established a 15-20 sq km territory for himself, Jung was eventually able to figure out where to anticipate the animal. The seasons played a role too: Summer meant chances of a sighting near a water body, while tall trees were a better bet in monsoon. Saya's melanism is a result of a recessive trait, one that even the black cat is aware of. "He knew he was different so he learned to adapt – by climbing trees with black barks and camouflaging with shadows in daylight," says Jung. There was more that set Saya apart, like his mating ritual of courting multiple female leopards at once, or like Jung explains, "He knew his gene was recessive and that he had to work harder to pass the gene down."

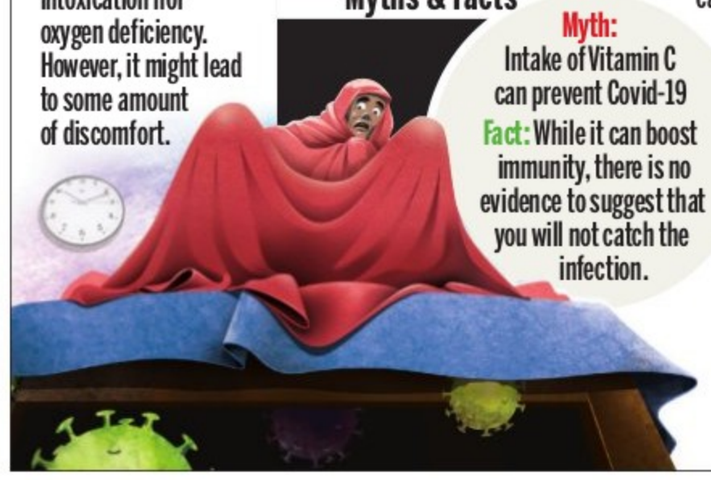
Having returned to India in 2010 instead of taking up a corporate career in the US, Jung started as a naturalist and guide before he took to documenting leopards. While his love for photography came from his introduction to Scarface (a popular leopard of Kabini), it was Saya who inspired him to take up cinematography. Jung also helps his family run the Bison Resort, a tented camp built on eco-tourism guidelines. Due to the pandemic, the resort was allowed to reopen in June but has shut again due to the rise in number of cases. "Hopefully people will understand that the way forward is to respect the environment," says Jung, who also hopes to publish two books (one on Saya and another on short stories from the wild) next year.

(Shaaz Jung will be in conversation with Karan Virwani on July 20, from 4pm-5pm, on We-Work Facebook page)

Myth: Thermal scanners detect Covid-19.
Fact: Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature). They cannot detect people who are infected with Covid-19. There are many causes of fever. Seek medical care if you have fever.

Myth: Prolonged use of medical masks causes oxygen deficiency
Fact: If medical masks are worn properly, it does not lead to carbon dioxide intoxication nor oxygen deficiency. However, it might lead to some amount of discomfort.

Myths & Facts



Myth: Intake of Vitamin C can prevent Covid-19
Fact: While it can boost immunity, there is no evidence to suggest that you will not catch the infection.

Myth: Shoes can spread the Covid-19 virus
Fact: According to WHO, the likelihood of Covid-19 being spread by shoes and infecting individuals is very low. As a precautionary measure, however, particularly in homes where babies and small children crawl or play on floors, consider leaving your shoes at the entrance of your home.

Myth: Antibiotics can prevent Covid-19
Fact: Covid-19 is spread through virus, not bacteria. However, in some cases, people who get infected by Covid-19 can also develop a bacterial infection. In those cases, doctors might prescribe antibiotics.

Myth: Covid-19 can spread through eating meat.
Fact: Staying away from meat doesn't guarantee that you will not get the virus. It is usually spread through respiratory droplets.

Acing a different ball game

● Monika Monalisa

How does one deal with the dullness and paranoia that has emerged due to the pandemic? Well, tennis player Adil Kalyanpur resorts to rap, and not just to amuse himself but to spread awareness too. The Bengaluru-based sportsperson has released his second rap song, Mask on, which speaks about the importance of wearing a mask.

Adil Kalyanpur

Hailing from a family of doctors, Kalyanpur says discussions around the rise in numbers of positive Covid-19 cases is a normal fixture at home. "This spike in infections is alarming. And it's scary to see so many people not taking any precautions. I wanted to channelise this concern the right way," says Kalyanpur, who goes by his artist pseudonym A-Kal. The 20-year-old, who wrote the song in three hours, adds, "I did make my parents, who are doctors, go through the lyrics for a fact check. I didn't want to give out any wrong information."

Though writing and producing the song wasn't difficult, Kalyanpur, a former Junior Wimbeldon player and former member of the Indian Junior Davis Cup team, states that he also wanted the video to closely visualise the lyrics. Around 80 per cent of the song has been shot in his garden and inside his house, while the rest of the shots were taken when the lockdown was relaxed, with precautions in place.

Tennis and rapping might make strange bedfellows, but this budding rapper says his love for this art form started after he watched the movie, Gully Boy. "Since then, whenever I wasn't playing tennis, I used to scribble down my thoughts but never considered it good enough. During this lockdown, when I started feeling low, I came out with my first rap, Captivity of Negativity, which was about my tennis journey. It was quite liked by many," says Kalyanpur, adding that this gave him the confidence to launch his second single.

Kalyanpur is currently preparing for the Davis Cup scheduled to be held next year. "All my tournaments for this year have been cancelled. I was returning from a tournament in Tanzania and had transit in Dubai when the lockdown was declared. Since then I have been at home," he says. Kalyanpur has been playing tennis at an international level for 8-9 years and did his initial training at Rafa Nadal academy in Mallorca, Spain. While he now spends most of his time practising at home, he misses the thrill of the court. "Once the pandemic is over, I will head to Germany, since I have a base there. My current focus is to be in the top 800 worldwide to ensure I make it to Davis Cup," he says.

> **It's scary to see so many people not taking any precautions. I wanted to channelise this concern the right way**
> — **Adil Kalyanpur**, tennis player

KNOT GAIN

This Rakhi festival, extend the hand to soldiers and artisans

● Bala Chauhan

This has been a tough year for all, especially the artisans, whose livelihood depends upon people's love and indulgence for the artefacts and the festive things they make for every occasion. August 3 is Raksha Bandhan, the festival of the sacred thread that sisters tie on their brother's wrists as a promise for their security. On the occasion, a Bengaluru-based online platform for artisans, Habba.org, has come up with an initiative to help revive the artisans' business. The initiative involves sending rakhis made by them to Indian soldiers, from the countrymen as a token of thanks for their commitment to national security.

'Jai Jawan. Jai Artisan' is a call to citizens to support artisans by buying rakhis made by them and sending to our soldiers with a gratitude note. This is the first step to our larger initiative of reviving handmade artefacts and enabling artisans to get back on their feet," said Dola Samanta of Habba, which is an initiative of Rang De, a peer-to-peer lending platform regulated by the RBI to enable individuals to lend to farmers, artisans and small businesses at low interest rates. "The Army headquarters in New Delhi has helped us with the locations where the rakhis will be sent," said Ramakrishna NK, founder, Habba.org and co-founder, Rang De.

'Jai Jawan. Jai Artisan' is a call to citizens to support artisans by buying rakhis

"Habba means festival in Kannada. Our goal is to send 1 lakh rakhis to our soldiers and, in turn, enable 1,000 artisans to kickstart their livelihood. We are working with 10 credible grassroots organisations in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Maharashtra, which mainly work with rural artisans, and mostly women," said Dola.

Habba was started in 2015 with the objective of bridging the gap between customers and artisans. "The inspiration came from our interventions to provide working capital to artisans and weavers via Rang De. We realised that despite getting access to affordable working capital and markets, artisans were getting a raw deal. Their income had not increased, and they continued to live on subsistence level," said Dola.

Rakhis can be purchased on Habba.org website. "People can personalise their rakhi by sending their messages of gratitude to the soldiers. They will reach them as sent," she added.

GREEN THUVAIYAL

INGREDIENTS

- **Mint leaves:** A small bunch
- **Coriander leaves:** A small bunch
- **Curry leaves:** A few sprigs
- **Urad dal:** 2 tsp
- **Chana dal:** 2 tsp
- **Red chilies:** 5
- **Tamarind:** a small ball
- Rock salt as per taste
- Asafoetida

METHOD

- Clean and chop all the leaves.
- Heat 1/2 tsp of oil and roast the urad dal, chana dal, red chilies, tamarind, salt and asafoetida. Lastly, add all the leaves, mix and turn off the stove.
- Grind the mixture into a coarse paste.
- Can be had with dosas or mixed with rice.

– by Anu Rajagopal, Chennai

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

SPACE WATCH

COMET NEOWISE TO BE VISIBLE

This month offers your only chance to see a three-mile-wide comet called Neowise as it rockets past Earth. The ball of space ice and its brightly coloured split tail is expected to reach peak brightness this week. No binoculars or telescopes will be needed to spot the comet as it will be visible to the naked eye for the next few days. According to Space.com, the comet is set to be visible throughout July, moving closest to Earth on July 22. Neowise came from the outermost reaches of our solar system. Its orbit took it dangerously close to the Sun on July 3 – 10 million miles closer than Mercury's orbit – but Neowise survived and made its way towards Earth. The comet is expected to get close to India on July 23, approaching within about 64 million miles, according to NASA. But this week, from now through Sunday, may provide the best opportunity to spot it in the sky. Neowise is the third comet to be discovered in 2020. Atlas and Swan, the other two comets were seen with the same potential but broke up before they could get as bright as Neowise. Around July 30, the comet will be near Ursa Major and will be visible for an hour. The comet's prime viewing hours will come in the evenings this week about 80 minutes after sunset.

Source: Space.com; wionews.com

BRIGHT SPOT

MAKING THEIR D-DAY

A Massachusetts-based non-profit has begun donating bridal gowns to frontline healthcare workers who need a little help with their wedding plans. Brides Across America usually donates gowns to military couples or first responders, but since the country's medical professionals are now risking their lives every day in the fight against coronavirus, they've shown they more than qualify as heroes in their own right. Every year since 2008, BAA has donated around 2,000 wedding dresses, totalling 25,000 gowns, to brides. The BAA ships dress collections to local boutiques or event spaces across the USA and holds events that allow future brides to browse the donations. The non-profit is busy, and with just seven people, it is doing all it can to keep up with demand.

Source: goodnewsnetwork.org

APPSMART

Funny Food 2

Try educational games for toddlers. An tnteresting learning app for toddlers. Educate your kids in a playful manner.
Available on: Android

Star Walk 2

This is a great astronomy guide to explore the night sky, identify stars, constellations, planets, satellites, asteroids, comets, ISS, Hubble Space Telescope and other celestial bodies.
Available on: Android & iOS

Zelish

Zelish creates a personalised homemade menu that matches your food, dietary and cuisine preferences.
Available on: Android

SOUND BOARD

BHASKAR BOSE

Bhaskar Bose is an accountant by profession but detective by passion. From missing bodies from graveyards to murders on a film set, Bhaskar Bose and his police sidekick Bikesh solve each case in their inimitable style. On Spotify

GITA FOR THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS

This weekly podcast is presented by Jaya Row, a renowned expert on Indian scripture. In each episode, an aspect of our modern lives is examined through the learnings from our ancient scriptures to provide ageless answerd to our most contemporary dilemmas. On Spotify

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past—an event, a person, an idea, even a song—and asks whether we got it right the first time. On Google Podcast

SCIENCE VS

Science Vs takes on fads, trends, and the opinionated mob to find out what's fact, what's not, and what's somewhere in between. On Spotify and Apple Podcast

MILLENNIAL LIFE CRISIS

Millennial Life Crisis is a weekly podcast hosted by Shelby Church and Monica Church, 25-year-old sisters living in different cities. They cover topics such as adulting, personal finance, moving to a new city, buying a house, and more through the lens of two millennials. On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

SAARATHI

Rukmini is forcefully taken hostage by her enemy, Pratap, who wants to marry her. When Raja, her lover and a rickshaw driver by profession, finds out, he sets out for her hometown to rescue her.
● Cast: Darshan, Deepa Sannidhi, R Sarathkumar

HUDUGARU

Prabhu, Chandru and Siddesh aspire to have a government job and try to lead a simple lifestyle. But their lives change dramatically when they attempt to unite two lovers.
● Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Yogesh, Srinagar Kitty

HUBLI

A man, who is a terror to antisocial elements, loses his memory. He is chased by a policeman, who regards him as a terrorist.
● Cast: Sudeep, Rakshita

SEETHANAM

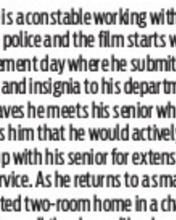
After being released from jail, Muthu Manikkam takes on the illegal activities of a corrupt politician to settle old scores. But he faces trouble through a lawyer who does not approve of his deeds.
● Cast: Prabhu, Ranjitha, Vinu Chakravarthi

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

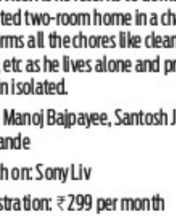
1 WHY DO HOSPITALS HAVE PARTICLE ACCELERATORS? BY PEDRO BRUGAROLAS

Doctors are using injected radioactive drugs that circulate through the body and act as a beacon for PET scanners. These diagnostic tools can detect the spread of diseases before they can be spotted with other types of imaging. So how exactly does this work, and is it safe? Pedro Brugarolas investigates.



2 HOW A HANDFUL OF FISHING VILLAGES SPARKED A MARINE CONSERVATION REVOLUTION BY ALASDAIR HARRIS

Marine biologist and TED Fellow Alasdair Harris lays out a surprising solution to the problem of overfishing that could both revive marine life and rebuild local fisheries – all by taking less from the ocean.



3 EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO READ "FRANKENSTEIN" BY ISEULT GILLESPIE

In 1815, Lord Byron challenged a few literary guests to write the most chilling ghost story? Eighteen-year-old Mary Shelley, over the next few months, crafted the story of 'Frankenstein'. Iseult Gillespie tells why you need to read this classic novel.

4 WHY DO PEOPLE FEAR THE WRONG THINGS? BY GERD GIGERENZER

A new drug reduces the risk of heart attacks by 40%. Shark attacks are up by a factor of two. Drinking a liter of soda per day doubles your chance of developing cancer. These are examples of how risk is presented, and can often be misleading. Gerd Gigerenzer explores the difference between relative and absolute risk.

5 FACEBOOK'S ROLE IN BREXIT & THE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY BY CAROLE CADWALLADR

Journalist Carole Cadwalladr digs into UK's super-close 2016 vote to leave the European Union. Cadwalladr calls out Facebook for being on the wrong side of history and asks: Are free and fair elections a thing of the past?

FIT BIT

EKA PADA URDHVA DHANURASANA

(ONE-LEGGED UPWARD BOW POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'Eka' means 'one', 'pada' means 'foot' or 'leg', 'urdhva' means 'upward', 'dhanu' means 'bow' and asana means 'pose'. It is an intense backbend that stretches the whole body. This pose has variations. It is a powerful heart opener and activates the Anahata (heart) chakra. Balancing the Anahata chakra promotes love, compassion and harmony. This variation challenges your balance by creating an asymmetrical foundation. It is an invigorating and energising pose that creates vitality in the body, mind, and spirit.

STEPS

- Start by lying on your back with the arms at your sides. Bend your knees, keeping the feet parallel to your hips. Draw your heels close to your buttocks.
- Reach your arms up overhead, bend your elbows to place the palms on the floor. Inhale, lift your hips toward the ceiling. Bring the crown of your head to the mat.
- With exhalation, straighten your arms and lift your head completely off the floor. Press the weight of your hands equally through the index fingers. Straighten your arms and lift your chest as Upward Bow Pose.
- Shift your weight on your left foot. Exhaling, bend your right knee and draw it towards the centre of your torso. Inhaling, extend your leg up towards the ceiling, as vertical as possible.
- Continue to lift your hips and chest as high as you can. Keep your upper arm nestled deeply in your shoulder sockets. Lengthen your entire spine as you lift your foot higher.
- Hold for 10 seconds. Exhale and lower your right foot.
- Repeat the pose with your left leg.
- To release the pose bring your head to the mat, and then the body. Rest on your back with your knees bent together.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the full-body.
- Strengthens arms, wrists, spine, legs and abdomen.
- Opens up the lungs.
- Improves balance.
- Stimulates thyroid and pituitary glands.
- Increases energy.
- Gives relief from asthma, anxiety and mild depression.
- Promotes calmness and serenity.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from high or low blood pressure, headaches, diarrhoea, or heart problems, should avoid this.
- If you have a back injury or carpal tunnel syndrome, avoid this.
- If you have any medical concerns, consult a yoga expert before practice.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

LAW (Kannada)

Nandini, law graduate files a case of gang-rape by three men. After several delays, the case is handed over to CBI. The officer in-charge realises that the accused men have powerful connection.
● Cast: Ragini Prajwal, Hebbale Krishna, Achyuth Kumar
● Watch on: Amazon Prime
● Registration: ₹ 129 per month

HAPPY DAYS (Telugu)

A group of eight youngsters from an engineering college form an unbreakable friendship after going through various struggles.
● Cast: Gayathri Rao, Tamannaah, Rahul Haridas
● Watch on: Amazon Prime
● Registration: ₹ 129 per month

VIRGIN BHANUPRIYA (Hindi)

Bhanupriya, a conservative girl decides to lose her virginity but fails in her every attempt. A soothsayer predicts that it is an impossible task and it will not happen to her. She decides to overcome this bad luck.
● Cast: Urvashi Rautela, Gautam Gulati
● Watch on: Zee5
● Registration: ₹ 99 per month

AVANE SRIMANNARAYANA (Kannada)

In pursuit of solving a long-held mystery of Amaravati, Narayana - the quirky new cop in the town - has to get past a dreaded clan of dacoits and its fierce leader Jairam.
● Cast: Rakshit Shetty, Shanvi Srivastava, Achyuth Kumar
● Watch on: Amazon Prime
● Registration: ₹ 129 per month

MAGAMUNI (Tamil)

Magadevan is a contract killer who leads a secret family life with his wife and son. Muniraj is a saint whose motto is to spread real education to children. Both Maga and Muni look alike and their lives are strangely intertwined in a journey of crime, peace and love.
● Cast: Mahima Nambiar, Arya, Rohini
● Watch on: Amazon Prime
● Registration: ₹ 129 per month

BHONSLE (Hindi)

Bhonsle is a constable working with Mumbai police and the film starts with his retirement day where he submits his uniform and insignia to his department. As he leaves he meets his senior who promises him that he would actively follow-up with his senior for extension of his service. As he returns to a small dilapidated two-room home in a chawl he performs all the chores like cleaning, cooking, etc as he lives alone and prefers to remain isolated.
● Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Santosh Juvekar, Neetu Pande
● Watch on: Sony Liv
● Registration: ₹ 299 per month

AARYA (Hindi, series)

Aarya Sareen's blissful family life is jeopardised when greed consumes her loved ones. With crime as her legacy, can she escape from what she hates the most?
● Cast: Sushmita Sen, Chandrachur Singh, Sikandar Kher ● Watch on: Disney+Hotstar ● Registration: ₹ 399 per year

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

CURSED (English, series)

In a retelling of the Arthurian legend, teenage sorceress Nimue joins forces with a young and charming mercenary named Arthur on a mission to save her people.
● Cast: Katherine Langford, Daniel Sharman, Gustaf Skarsgard
● Watch on: Netflix
● Registration: ₹ 199 per month

THE DEVIL'S MISTRESS (Czech: Lída Baarová)

Czech actress Lída Baarová rejects offers from Hollywood after entering into a dangerous romance with Joseph Goebbels, the Third Reich's minster of propaganda.
● Cast: Tatiana Pauhofová, Karl Markovics, Pavel Kriz ● Watch on: Netflix
● Registration: ₹ 199 per month

KNIVES OUT (English)

The circumstances surrounding the death of crime novelist Harlan Thrombey are mysterious, but there's one thing that renowned Detective Benoit Blanc knows for sure – everyone in the wildly dysfunctional Thrombey family is a suspect. Now, Blanc must sift through a web of lies and red herrings to uncover the truth.
● Cast: Ana de Armas, Chris Evans, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis ● Watch on: Airtel Xstream
● Registration: Free for Airtel users

1917 (English)

During World War I, two British soldiers – Lance Cpl. Schofield and Lance Cpl. Blake – receive seemingly impossible orders. In a race against time, they must cross over into enemy territory to deliver a message that could potentially save 1,600 of their fellow comrades – including Blake's own brother.
● Cast: George MacKay, Dean Charles-Chapman, Richard Madden, Benedict Cumberbatch, Andrew Scott
● Watch on: Sony Liv ● Registration: ₹ 299 per month

SKETCHING POSSIBILITIES

Prominent B'luru artists debate how art provides a unique perspective to crisis with its ability to make people perceive things in a way science and data cannot

● Vidya Iyengar

Over the last few months, ever since the Covid-19 pandemic took the globe by storm, thinking out of the box has helped many, particularly those in the art and culture space. But for a change, these artists had to do otherwise while participating in the virtual art show, 'Inside the Box is Outside the Box', organised by Deepa Subramanian, founder of Galerie De'Arts.

Featuring seven city-based artists – SG Vasudev, Anuradha Nalapat, Ravikumar Kashi, Rekha Rao, Shan Re, Shantamani Muddaiah and Sultana Hasan, the initiative is an effort to bring the artists and the artistic sensibilities together. The show, the recording of which is available online, included a 35-minute video presentation by the artists speaking from their studios about their experiences, and a debate on how art provides a unique perspective to the crisis with its ability to make people perceive things in a way science and data cannot; and how social media is experiencing a significant engagement in art and has become an effective tool for reaching out to a larger audience across the globe which a brick and mortar exhibition cannot achieve. "This is to give a glimpse to art enthusiasts of not only the idea of the kind of art created, but also a sneak peek into their environment, studios, how they spend time, how they create art, and how they cope with this situation," says Subramanian, who adds that although nothing can replace the energy of a physical art show, they have been forced to face the bleak reality of having to move it into a box.

(From top) Paintings by Sultana Hasan, Rekha Rao and Shan Re

"It is the responsibility of art to be able to build these contexts and to build a community as a whole," says Subramanian. Even when she re-located to Los Angeles in 2017, she admits she wasn't thinking of moving art shows online. "My plan was to have shows both in LA and in Bengaluru. It wasn't an option at that time although there was a lot of online content related to art. Post Covid-19, it has become the only option," she says.

She also opines that while some artists who are comfortable will survive, emerging and mid-rung artists are most likely to bear the brunt of this crisis. "Many artists feel the need for institutions and government to help unemployed artists (and others) who are struggling financially; as well as art institutions such as museums and galleries, especially in India where they are already suffering from lack of donors and funds, as opposed to institutions worldwide which are privately funded," she says.

Deepa Subramanian, founder Galerie De'Arts

TAILORING SUPPORT

● Monika Monalisa

It's always good to count your blessing but it takes conviction to use you privileges to help others. Nikhila Reddy is an example of this philosophy. With many tailors losing their livelihood due to the pandemic, Reddy started an initiative to help them by creating her brand Swedle, to sell apparels made of handloom fabrics flaunting traditional crafts like kalamkari and ikat.

Reddy was moved to launch the business when a tailor living near her house came to her to check if there are any work that he could do to support himself, since he was getting no business. Although Reddy's family tried to help him with orders, it was a limited effort. The 23-year-old engineering graduate, whose family runs a business of importing and exporting fabrics, then decided to make use of the leftover fabrics they had, and get it stitched into shorts. "I spread the word among my friends and they started placing orders. Meanwhile, even other tailors started getting in touch with me for work," says Reddy, who began the exercise on a smaller scale in April. As demand started increasing, she took this to social media under the brand, Swedle. Ask her what it means, and she laughs, "Sewdle is short for 'Sew'ing and 'Nee'dle."

Reddy has until now fulfilled over 100 orders. Though she started with selling shorts, she has now included other garments too. "Shorts are the easiest thing to make, since they do not require much fitting sessions and I thought Kalamkari shorts look cute too," she says. Each pair costs around ₹350-450.

The brand is not making any profit yet, but with the growing demand, Reddy is planning to take it forward. "I am planning to expand to more rich Indian textiles and multifarious designs, be it shorts, frocks or kurta. Our Indian heritage is beautiful, so why not explore and embrace it. I also plan to build an app to make bespoke tailoring easy, approachable and affordable for everyone," says Reddy, who completed her engineering from MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology and is currently helping her mother with the business. The family moved to Bengaluru from Delhi five years back after Reddy's father retired from the Air Force.

Each product is manufactured and customised based on the customer's requirement. "We avoid bulk production for retail because even though it may cost slightly less per product, it's not the best thing to do for the environment," says Reddy, who is also trying to cut down on the textile waste.

Models showcase Nikhila Reddy's creations

Shorts are the easiest thing to make, since they do not require much fitting sessions and I thought Kalamkari shorts look cute too

—Nikhila Reddy, founder, Sewdle

Teens for teens

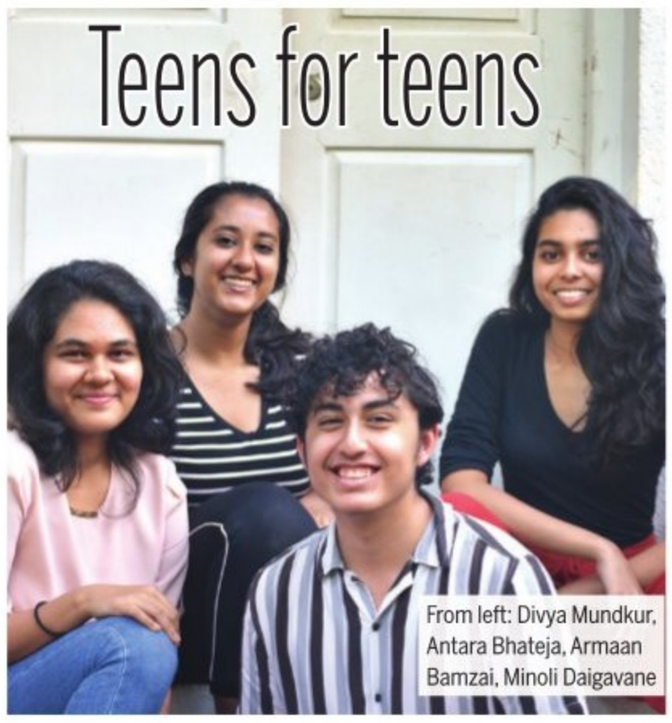
● Vidya Iyengar

Exams being cancelled, schools declaring holidays, and free-time on hand were wishful thoughts of students. But with the pandemic having turned these into reality, young teens who are dealing with these issues are bogged down with stress, anxiety and worry about what the future holds. So much so, the teen founders – Antara Bhateja, Armaan Bamzai, Divya Mundkur and Minoli Daigavane – of Paper Planes Bangalore, a mental health initiative for teens and by teens, have been flooded with queries from fellow students.

"There is a lot of pressure those our age are going through. On one hand there's this assumption that there is a lot of time on hand, and on the other there's anxiety to be productive every single minute. That in itself is a reason for worry, sadness and loneliness," says co-founder Mundkar, a grade 12 student of The International School Bangalore. The 16-20 years age group is whom they find forthcoming and willing to open up about mental health even as others find the subject a taboo. "We also struggled with school stress, changing hormonal levels and other personal issues, and understand what others in our age group are going through. This platform is just to show that we are all together in this," says co-founder Bhateja (17).

The students feel that their platform, where one can share their writings, poems, music, provides youngsters a creative catharsis. "We understand the importance of dialogue about mental health and aspire to create a platform for people to express emotions that are generally difficult to talk about or taboo in our culture. We place a special emphasis on the use of creative expression in relation to mental health," Mundkar says, adding that they recently expanded to other states to extend their reach.

Being teens themselves and volunteering to help out others their age comes with its own set of challenges, including the risk of not being taken seriously. "There are times we face that, but that's slowly changing," says Bhateja. Often, people reach out to them, sharing their issues, but the foursome is clear that their group can always lend a listening ear and connect them with resources and professionals. "We've also got a chat feature on our website where the conversation is deleted entirely to ensure confidentiality," Bhateja adds.



From left: Divya Mundkur, Antara Bhateja, Armaan Bamzai, Minoli Daigavane

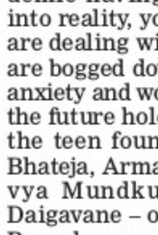
TOGETHER IN IT

Over the weekend, the group conducted 'Alone Together', focused on a more general aspect of creative expression addressing mental health issues during the lockdown. It included a range of activities, from reading out submissions received by the audience, to a talk by a consultant clinical psychologist, Dr Preethi Ninan. "It was to have an open discussion with our audience about mental health during the lockdown and discuss different ways of coping," Bhateja says.

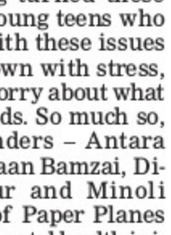
TOPPERS

RYAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, KUNDALAHALLI

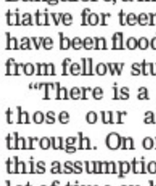
CLASS 10 - ICSE



98.4% Shreya Bansal

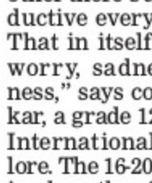


97.8% Amrutha T

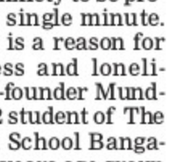


97.60% Meet Dineshbhai Gajjar

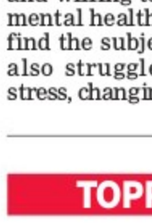
CLASS 12 - ISC



94.75% Cathy Anand (Science)



91.75% Aakash M Rao(Science)



88.25% Aryaman Susarla (Science)

97.8% Sankari Meena (Commerce)

MINUTE TO WIN IT

● Simran Ahuja

What if we told you that you could watch 20 plays in 30 minutes? Yes, you heard that right. Two city-based theatre groups are coming together to organise a 60-second online theatre festival. Called 'Kuchh Aur', the festival calls for two actors to enact a play, complete with a beginning, middle and end, all taking place in just a minute. "Think of it like the T-20 of theatre," says Anita Mithra, founder of The Tortilla Entertainment Company, which will collaborate with Urban Chauppal for this festival. "You get to hear so many stories in one evening. And if you don't like the story, the next one is just seconds away," adds Mithra, who is also a theatre person.

The event is themed around 'unusual relationships', and the organisers are looking for actors to portray more than the usual pairs of spouses or siblings. "The story could show the equation between someone and their vegetable vendor or it could present a new facet to the relationship between a pet and his owner," explains Mithra. Every participant is sent a demo video to help them understand that the final submission has to be a one-shot scene, without cuts or edits. "Though they are recording it on video, it is still a play, so movement should be like it's on stage," adds Mithra, who has also run the Bengaluru leg of the Australian 10-minute theatre festival. She has also worked with a five-minute format earlier.

While challenging creativity was one aspect of the festival, the other was to give a platform to plays in regional languages. While Hindi and English plays are popular, the team hopes to give a push to other languages as well. "Even if someone is comfortable in English, we urge them to take part in their regional languages, even if it is by just including a few lines in it. A blend of languages always gives a different perspective," says Vandana Dugar, a founding member of Urban Chauppal. Agrees Mithra, who adds that the format can help both beginners and advanced practitioners. "Sometimes we're so used to taking our time with a buildup. But here, you have to pack a punch in a more creative manner," she says.

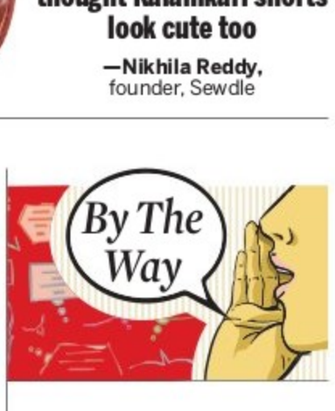
Registrations are on till July-end. Videos of top submissions will be posted on social media in August. For details, email kuchhaur.event@gmail.com

Even if someone is comfortable in English, we urge them to take part in their regional languages. A blend of languages gives a different perspective

—Vandana Dugar, founding member, Urban Chauppal

The story could show the equation between someone and their vegetable vendor or it could present a new facet to the relationship between a pet and his owner

—Anita Mithra, founder, The Tortilla Entertainment Company



Puppy love

Actor Ravichandran got an Oscar! It's not us but his son Manoranjan saying so. The actor added a new member to their family – a beagle that they have named Oscar. Manoranjan took to Instagram to post pictures of the puppy. The one showing his father and Oscar was captioned, "Presenting you dads oscar".

Home sweet home

Dancer Kishen Bilagali is having a time of his life at his hometown in Malnad region. The former Bigg Boss Kannada participant posted a series of videos of him having fun with his family and friends in paddy fields.

| CITY READ |

College to give free training for MBA PGCET exam

With an aim to prepare students for the upcoming MBA PGCET examinations, CMR Institute of Technology will conduct a five-day free online training programme with a mock test series, from July 20-24. Speaking about the initiative, Dr Sanjay Jain, principal, CMRIT College, says, "The mock test series will give the student a fair idea about the level of preparation needed and an indication of the performance in the exam. Most importantly, the mock test will help the students tackle psychological pressure."

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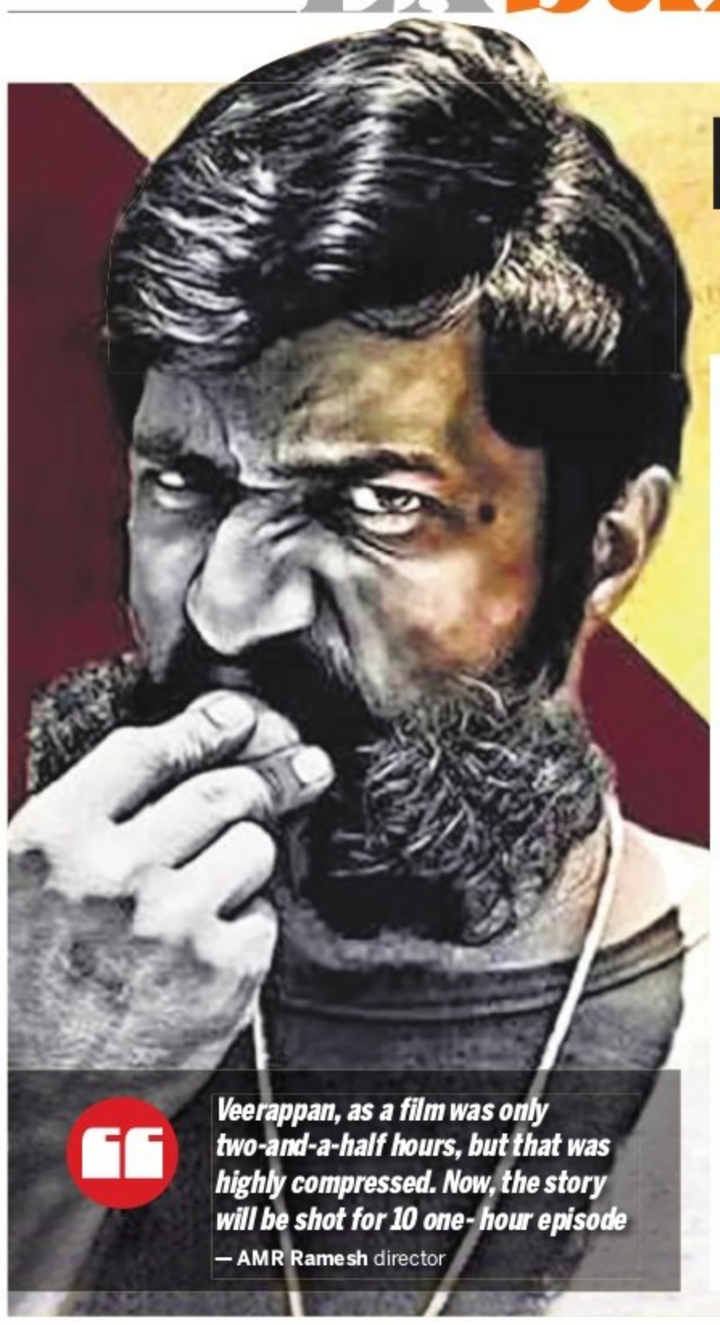


Now, Veerappan's life through web series

Attahasa director AMR Ramesh is coming up with 10 one-hour episodes, which will star Kishore as Veerappan, besides local artistes as well as actors from Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu cinema; the digital series will be out in four Indian languages

Veerappan, as a film was only two-and-a-half hours, but that was highly compressed. Now, the story will be shot for 10 one-hour episode
— **AMR Ramesh** director

CE Features

At his last announcement, director AMR Ramesh was working on a web series titled *LTTE,* which was backed by actor-producer, Rana Daggubatti. Now, he put this project on the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, on hold. Instead, the director of *Cyanide, Attahasa,* and *Police Quarters*, is currently working on making a web series on *Veerappan - Hunger for Killing.* The 10-episode webseries will be made under AMR Pictures. The story written by director Ramesh has him taking productional responsibility along with Indumathi. *Veerappan* will have music composed by Vijai Shankar with two DOPS -- Vijay Milton and Vaidy S handling the cinematography.

The curtain-raiser, which will be out on July 23, will reveal a few details. Ahead of that, Ramesh tells *CE* that he is getting ready to shoot for this series from August 10. "The curtain raiser is more or less like a trailer. The shoot will be a 60-day schedule canned in Bengaluru and forests of Karnataka. The team will follow government orders, and we are taking safety measures, travelling with a limited crew," says Ramesh.

As preparation for the shoot begins, Ramesh has been holding meetings with Kishore who plays the role of Veerappan along with crew. "Along with Kishore, the actors who worked in *Attahasa,* including Ravi Kale, Sampath, Raai Laxmi, Viayalakshmi, Suchendra Prasad, will be joining the first 30-days schedule. In the meantime, I am in talks with a handful of well-known faces from Hindi, Tamil and Telugu industries, and the cast details will be revealed once they've signed on the dotted line. "The web series will also see Arjun Sarja, who had played the role of cop K Vijay Kumar in *Attahasa.* We have some unused episodes of the actor, from the film, which will come handy for the web series. We will approach Arjun Sarja in case we need more scenes to be shot," he says.

Considering that the story of Veerappan has been attempted by a few directors, including himself, with *Attahasa,* is it necessary to tell another story of the forest brigand? "*Veerappan*, as a film was only two-and-a-half hours, but that was highly compressed. Now, the story will be shot for 10 hours. In the earlier one, I could not present the deeper facts and couldn't do justice as there was a lot of pressure from the censor board and government. However, with the web series, there are no restrictions," says Ramesh, who adds that he also pushed himself to make the web series after watching Ram Gopal Varma's *Killing Veerappan.* "I felt RGV didn't say anything in *Killing Veerappan.* When he doesn't have guts to use real names, real places, what is the point of basing it on a real-life subject? At least I had real names in my directorial. I also couldn't say everything I wanted to in *Attahasa* because of a lot of pressure. When the facts are already out in public domain, why don't filmmakers have the liberty of showing it on screen?," he questions.

AMR Ramesh along with actor Kishore and crew

According to the director, the web series is a big platform, which will enable him to explore deeper into Veerappan's life. "I am making this assurance after watching different web series, including *Aarya, Family Man, Paatal Lok, Mirzapur, and Sacred Games.* I can confidently say that we have the best content in India," he says.

While *Attahasa* explored the atrocities of Veerappan and his encounter with the police, Ramesh explains that the only one that could be highlighted was the story of police officer Vijaykumar. "However, the web series will bring stories of Shanker Bidari, Kempaiah, Harshavardhan Raju, Jyothi Prakash Mirji, Madhukar Shetty, along with IPS officers Ravindra Prasad, Harishekaran , Ramkrishna Prasad, Bava, BB Ashok Kumar, Prabhkar Barki, Soudhagar, Nagaraj, BK Shivram, and others who encountered Veerappan in different situations," he says.

Interestingly, this web series on *Veerappan* will be a show reel for his upcoming web series *LTTE.* "We will be showcasing the *Veerappan* webseries, to the international market, and for people to sample our work before I begin the next web series *LTTE.* The latter will be a 100-episode series, which is the plan at the moment," he says.

SAAD KHAN GETS READY FOR *SANGEET*

The director's next will be a romantic comedy-drama produced by Chandru Manoharan of Lahari Music, and Nikhil Kumar, under the banner of NK Entertainment; the makers plan to cast fresh faces and shooting is planned to take place in November

I just love the fact that Kannada cinema has given me so much. I will stick to directing a film in Sandalwood. It's also been a while since Kannada film audiences have watched a romantic comedy
— **Saad Khan,** director

A Sharadhaa

Director Saad Khan's next is going to be a romantic comedy-drama. The director of films like *Station* and *Love and She* has previously helmed *Humble Politician Nograj,* which marks the debut of Danish Sait on the silver screen. With his next, titled *Sangeet,* Saad Khan is exploring an urban romance between a couple who meets at a wedding. The movie will be bankrolled by Chandru Manoharan of Lahari Music and Nikhil Kumar under the banner, NK Entertainment. Interestingly, Chandru Manoharan is also producing a film for Nikhil Kumaraswamy, which is a sports drama directed by Vijay Kumar Konda. The film's shooting had started before lockdown.

However, Saad Khan's project will have the two joining hands as producers. An excited Saad Khan tells *CE*,"*Sangeet* is a subject that has been brewing in my mind for two years. Currently, I am working on the post-production for *Humble Politician Nograj*, Season 1, which will be out on OTT. Simultaneously, I am also working on the script for *Sangeet*," says Saad Khan, who is looking to start with the pre-production work in September. "Hopefully, if the Corona situation becomes better, we will be going on floors in November," he adds.

Sangeet will be executively produced by Saad Khan's Firstaction Studios, which is owned by Mumbai-based Rainshine Entertainment. Since Saad's strength is comedy, he is bringing in the romantic essence this time. "I have been a big fan of romantic films, from *Casablanca* to *DDLJ,* etc. I could dabble comedy through Humble, and improv. I have been waiting to make a romantic film. Fortunately, it has come about at the right time," says Saad Khan.

Talking about all the buzz about *Humble Politician Nograj,* which is a comedy, he says he will continue to do humour-based subjects. "We will be following it with Humble Politician Season 2 too. My first film has been a thriller, and I have done a film on postpartum depression. As a director, touching as many genres as I can is a challenging process," he explains.

Getting *Sangeet* backed by two good production houses is something Saad feels lucky about. "*Humble Politician* was produced by makers like Rakshit Shetty, Hemanth M Rao and Pushkar Mallikarjunaiah. Applause Entertainment is now producing the series, *Humble Politician*.. and now Chandru Manoharan and Nikhil Kumar are jointly producing my project. At least in Kannada cinema, I don't see that outsider-insider divide happening. Danish and I are both not insiders. And both of us are busy with our work during the pandemic. It is a blessing," says Saad Khan, adding, "I have been asked why I am not making a Hindi film, especially since *Humble Politician* series is now being made in that language. But honestly, I just love the fact that Kannada cinema has given me so much. I will stick to directing a film in Sandalwood. It's also been a while since Kannada film audiences have watched a romantic comedy," he says. The director is looking to cast fresh faces in the lead roles and will be conducting auditions soon. "My strength as a director is that I can get a good performance out of an actor. Once I know that these are the two faces in *Sangeet,* it will help me figure out what kind of performance I can take out from them," he adds. Arkodeb Mukherjee who is associated with Saad Khan for *Humbe Politician* series will be handling the camerawork for *Sangeet*

Saad Khan

Chandru Manoharan

Nikhil Kumar

Deepika Padukone to star opposite Prabhas in Prabhas 21

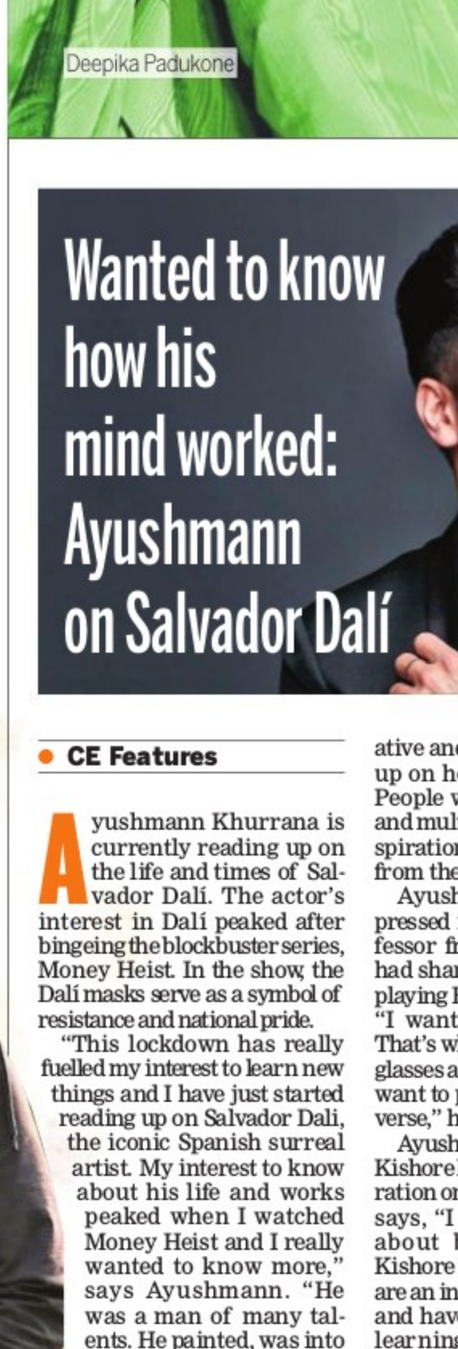
CE Features

Prabhas' upcoming film with Nag Ashwin, Prabhas 21, which was supposed to go on floors in November, had recently postponed its production to early next year, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, the makers have revealed through a video on their official Youtube channel that Bollywood star Deepika Padukone will be playing the female lead in the big budget actioner.

Prabhas

Touted to be a futuristic sci-fi thriller set against the backdrop of an imaginary third world war, the film is being bankrolled by C Ashwini Dutt under Vyjayanthi Movies banner.

To be mounted on a budget of Rs 400 crore, the makers call Prabhas 21 a pan-World film, which is expected to release in Telugu and several other regional and foreign languages in 2023. Prabhas was last shooting for his forthcoming romantic entertainer directed by Radha Krishna Kumar in Gergia before it got called off owing to the rise of coronavirus outbreak across Europe.


Deepika Padukone

Wanted to know how his mind worked: Ayushmann on Salvador Dalí

CE Features

Ayushmann Khurrana is currently reading up on the life and times of Salvador Dalí. The actor's interest in Dalí peaked after bingeing the blockbuster series, Money Heist. In the show, the Dalí masks serve as a symbol of resistance and national pride.

"This lockdown has really fuelled my interest to learn new things and I have just started reading up on Salvador Dali, the iconic Spanish surreal artist. My interest to know about his life and works peaked when I watched Money Heist and I really wanted to know more," says Ayushmann. "He was a man of many talents. He painted, was into graphic arts, had interest in films, sculpture, design, photography, etc. Basically, he was drawn to all things creative and I just wanted to read up on how his mind worked. People who are multi-faceted and multi-talented are huge inspirations to me. I look to learn from their lives."

Ayushmann had earlier expressed interest to play El Professor from Money Heist. He had shared a video of himself playing Bella Ciao on the piano. "I want to be the professor. That's why I'm wearing similar glasses and playing Bella Ciao. I want to put this out in the universe," he had written.

Ayushamann has also hailed Kishore Kumar as a huge inspiration on his life and career. He says, "I have been very vocal about being intrigued by Kishore Kumar too. Such icons are an institution in themselves and have left behind so many learnings for us to grasp, for us to understand. I'm thoroughly learning about their lives, their philosophies and their beliefs."

Aarya reimagined: Sushmita Sen becomes a warrior in animated video

CE Features

The makers of Hotstar Specials' Aarya have released an animated video narrating the protagonist's journey as a warrior. Directed by Ram Madhavani, the crime-drama stars Sushmita Sen as a mother who gets pulled into the drug trade. Streaming since June 19, the nine-part series also stars Chandrachur Singh, Namit Das, Sikandar Kher, Alexx ONell, and others.

"Aarya has reaffirmed my belief that being a mother is all about being a warrior and protecting your family by all means," Sushmita shared. "Aarya carries so much pain, but she internalises it all, to fight and save her children against all odds. This re-imagined animated video truly brings out the best of Aarya."